

Decision to close Linwood despite £40m aid offer provokes widespread fury

4,800 jobs to go and 3,500 more at risk

Talbot UK's announcement yesterday that it was closing its Linwood car plant, with the loss of 4,800 jobs, provoked fury from MPs, unions, and the workers. The Government is understood to have offered the French owners up to £40m to keep Linwood open, and at Talbot's Midlands plants, the decision was seen as spelling the end of their car-making in Britain.

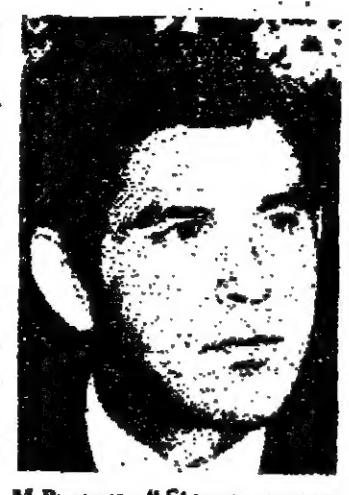
Clifford Webb, the former Peugeot carmaker, said the French Peugeot Citroen group had put an end to months of speculation by announcing plans to close its loss-making car plant at Linwood, near Glasgow, with the loss of all 4,800 jobs.

The news that production at Scotland's only car plant will cease in June brought an angry response from all sections of the community. Mr Bruce Millan, the shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, described it as "an absolutely disastrous, an evergreen blight on the west of Scotland that we have had for many years."

But Linwood's demise was also greeted with dismay at Talbot's Midlands plants where workers were widely expected to be signalling the end of car manufacturing in Britain by the company founded by the Rover family.

"It is quite clear that we are being demoted to the role of a second-class car maker," said a spokesman. "We shall be producing French cars and passing them off as British with a different badge" was how one Coventry executive put it last night.

The Avenger and Sunbeam models produced at Linwood are the only British cars re-



M. Parayre: "Strong presence will remain."

Emergency debate is refused as MPs denounce shutdown

The unthinkable level of 20 per cent. He spoke of bitterness and anger in Linwood.

From the Labour front bench, Mr Bruce Millan, Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that the closure was disastrous in an area already devastated by the effects of the Government's economic and industrial policies.

If the French parent company could break the pledges it had given regarding Linwood, pledges relating to Talbot's operation in Coventry could also be broken. The announcement might be the first step towards the complete withdrawal of Talbot from the United Kingdom.

He said that when Peugeot accepted obligations in 1978, they included specific pledges to keep Linwood and other British manufacturing plants open. If it had not been for those pledges, considerable sums of government money would not have been given to the company.

The Labour Party would not accept the closure.

But, for all the anxiety about the unemployment and the anger at the French decision to withdraw, Mr Fletcher could offer little immediate hope.

No offer of government funds, he said, would have attracted the company to make a new and substantial investment at Linwood for the simple reason that it was suffering from over-capacity.

Concentration of facilities was the only realistic course open to it.

Mr Fletcher added that, as well as the direct loss of 4,800 jobs at Linwood, there would be employment consequences for suppliers. He was considering what measures could be taken to generate new employment in the area before the shutdown at the end of the year.

Adjustment in tactics admitted by Mr Pym

In a bold, and deliberate, attempt to restore some common sense to the Government, Mr Pym, leader of the House, last night admitted in a speech that the Government was adjusting both its tactics and timing to meet severe economic difficulties.

"Common sense tells us that the current circumstances make adjustments necessary in both tactics and timing, to meet altered conditions. We will not be deterred from making this statement of the obvious by accusations of changing course. These adjustments in no way imply the abandonment of any of our main purposes nor any change in strategy," he said.

His speech, given to Pym's Conservatives the day the Government announced the first of massive new funding measures to help British Steel, marks a deliberate counterpoint to Mrs Thatcher's out-and-out defiance to any suggestion of changing course. It also marks the Cabinet's public acknowledgement that all is not well.

Mr Pym, appointed in last month's reshuffle to have oversight over the way the Government puts its message across, will have discussed the new tack with the Prime Minister, and it undoubtedly represents at the very least a sober new look, although in Whitehall as usual it was professed there was nothing new.

"The simple truth is, that in the light of the deterioration in the world and domestic economic framework, we could neither press ahead regardless with our planned schedule, nor make such much needed measures to deal with some of the distressing effects..." Mr Pym said.

Without apology or hand-wringing he drew attention to what he called the Government's concern with the immediate problems afflicting the country; increased assistance for the young unemployed; increased selective help to development areas and

Ministers to dropsick pay scheme

Government proposals to make employers pay the first eight weeks of sickness benefit are to be dropped from the legislative timetable after a series of ministerial meetings in the last few days.

Although a final decision has to be taken by the Cabinet today on a postponement, it is fully expected that the new Social Security Bill will not include clauses on sickness benefit.

It was evident last night that there has been disagreement among ministers because the postponement means the Government will have to seek elsewhere for cuts in the Civil Service. The estimate of the transfer of sickness benefit payments to employers some 5,000 jobs could be cut.

Ministers who argued against postponement were from the Treasury and the Civil Service Department. But the ministers responsible for social security, employment and industry, argued that the Government had to take account of criticisms from industrialists.

The Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers' Federation have argued that the measure is discriminatory because it would fall hardest on the engineering industry where the incidence of sickness is high.

Small businessmen, on the other hand, have complained that firms with few employees could not bear the cost.

Under the original proposals, employers would pay the first eight weeks of sickness benefit but the employers' national insurance contribution would be reduced. The compensatory concessions offered included proposals that employers would get reimbursement, the scale of which depended on the length of time of an individual's sickness and his amount of service.

It was stressed last night that ministers still intended to bring in transfer of sickness pay in the next parliamentary session if the Cabinet agreed to a postponement.



Mrs Cynthia Dwyer, the American freelance journalist deported from Iran after spending nine months in jail for spying, said in Zurich during a four-hour stopover on her way back to America that Miss Jean Waddell, one of the four Britons held in Iran, was "in very good spirits, very hopeful" when she left her. Mrs Dwyer and Miss Waddell shared a room.

Air control radar lost after power failure

The London air traffic control area was without radar cover for 30 minutes on Tuesday evening after a power breakdown at the main control centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow airport.

Emergency electricity supplies were quickly switched in to give the controllers lighting and radio communication with the aircraft under their control. The Civil Aviation Authority said last night that air safety was not endangered.

The cause of the breakdown had not been established yesterday but sabotage had been ruled out. The West Drayton centre is manned half by civilians and half by the Royal Air Force.

The authority said: "We view this as a serious occurrence and are carrying out an internal inquiry to make sure it will never happen again."

"This is certainly the first time that such a breakdown has occurred."

During the period of the radar blackout, all take-offs from Heathrow were held, and aircraft approaching the London area were asked over the radio telephone system to circle in holding patterns.

French air traffic controllers were asked to reduce the number of aircraft passing through their airspace on their way to Britain, and some take-offs from airports in Europe were delayed.

The authority added: "Radar is a vital tool, but it is possible to function safely without it using radio communications, although not at the same level of activity."

Arson suspected after eight die in second Las Vegas hotel blaze

From Michael Leapman, New York, Feb 11

Eight people died and 242 were injured in a spectacular fire that raced through several floors of the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel last night. It was the second disastrous fire in a skyscraper hotel within three months in Nevada's largest city, the gambling capital of America.

Police said they suspected arson. There appeared to have been four separate fires—the first of them starting in the evening, just before Andy Williams, the singer, was due to give his opening performance.

One of the victims was killed jumping out of a high window. The rest died from smoke inhalation before they could be rescued from the blaze.

"There were flames shooting up the side of the hotel. It looked like the towering inferno," said one of the survivors, referring to a film in which a high-rise hotel catches fire.

The November fire at the MGM Grand Hotel near by, in which 84 people lost their lives, has often been compared to the fictional fire in the film.

Questions about the safety of skyscraper hotels have been raised since last November's fire and are bound to be asked again as a result of this one. Firemen's ladders cannot reach beyond the eighth floor, where last night's fire began. If guests on floors above the fire are prevented from going down the emergency stairs, they cannot be rescued except by helicopter from the roof.

Some guests did escape by that method, others broke windows and shouted for help to the 450 firemen who fought the flames.

A guest from Chicago who was attending a convention at the hotel said: "When we got to the roof we saw flames coming up the elevator shaft through the building, so we ran over to the other side of the roof. When we saw flames there, we started to get nervous."

A Florida guest said: "We thought of the MGM fire and... I was scared to death." The hotel was evacuated and guests were given emergency beds in the city convention centre.

Unlike the MGM hotel, the Hilton had fire alarms and sprinklers on all floors.

Mr Barron Hilton, chairman of the Hilton Corporation, said: "If the fire was deliberately set, then the resources of the Hilton fire Corporation would be committed to bring the person or persons responsible for this tragedy to justice."

There could be several motives for setting fire to the hotel. Like most of the large Las Vegas hotels, the Hilton has a gambling casino downstairs, and a heavy loser might feel incensed enough to try to burn it down.

Our Medical Correspondent writes: Many of the deaths in any fire catastrophe are caused by suffocation or by poisoning from inhaled gases rather than by burns although the bodies commonly become extensively burned after death.

Almost always the smoke in a burning building contains carbon monoxide and victims often die from poisoning from this gas, the familiar lethal constituent of coalgas.

In several recent fires the smoke produced by burning plastic furnishings has proved especially dangerous. Burning plastic produces unusually dense clouds of smoke, which is also a chemical irritant and so can quickly incapacitate anyone breathing it. The irritants make breathing extremely difficult.

The smoke also causes irritation and watering of the eyes. It is the combination of impairment of vision and of breathing by chemical irritation that makes escape unusually difficult in fires with a large plastic element.

Photograph, page 8

Polish Army leader pledges tough line

From Desha Trevisan, Warsaw, Feb 11

The Polish Sejm (Parliament) today entrusted General Wojciech Jaruzelski with the difficult task of leading the Government which has to restore order and trust in authority.

There were two abstentions, perhaps indicating a new mood in the hitherto placid voting procedure.

General Jaruzelski is to remain Minister of Defence, a post he has held continuously for more than 13 years serving under a succession of prime ministers and through three labour crises, thus becoming the symbol of continuity of the one and only institution which remained intact, the armed forces.

There has been no military coup; but the Government, which has so far lacked authority now has the army to back it up as well as to guarantee Poland's growing uneasy allies that the authorities intend to halt the escalation of political demands. It can now also guarantee that while it is ready to negotiate, it will not be pushed into making concessions.

The Poles have found a typical Polish solution by entrusting the Government into the hands of a career soldier who, furthermore, is a man who is opposed to the use of force and commands great respect from all strata of society. This was emphasized by Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Communist Party leader, in a brief address to Parliament recommending General Jaruzelski for the post.

He emphasized his moral character, his patriotism, the fact that throughout his career, he had been a teacher to new generations of Polish army officers, and that he had brought the army to its present high state of readiness.

He also said that he would act toughly against anarchy and all forces which were acting against socialism, but that the task standing before the Government was to negotiate and carry out promised reforms.

Continued on page 7, col 1

£3,500 bill for every job lost

Every worker made redundant costs the Exchequer almost £3,500 a year in lost tax revenues, and social security and other benefits. The 300,000 people in unemployment over the past year are estimated to have cost the Government £1,000m. The direct and indirect cost to the Government of every jobless person is, however, likely to be around £5,000 a year. The state's outlay on unemployment is equivalent to more than half the £4,000m overshoot on public sector borrowing.

Herr Schmidt says he will stay at his post

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, affirmed the loyalty of his Social Democratic Party's crisis meeting, that he intended to stay at his post. Herr Kilian, a former party deputy chairman, warned the party that if it could not stop the "fall from power" will be unavoidable.

'Times' meeting today

Leaders of printing trade unions have been called to a meeting by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International company today amid hopes that it is near to agreements regarding the purchase of The Times. The Sunday Times and the other supplements. Mr Murdoch has given assurances on editorial independence of the supplements to a Commons committee.

Mrs Williams criticized

Mrs Shirley Williams will regret her decision to leave the Labour Party, Mr Ronald Hayward, its greatest power on the left, said. He should have stayed inside the party and fought for democratic socialism, he added.

London to lose 4,000 acute hospital beds

London is to lose more than 4,000, or almost one in seven, of its acute medical and surgical beds in the next seven years in return for more psychiatric, mental illness and mental handicap beds, and improved community services. Some small, local hospitals will be closed.

Diplomatic leak inquiry

Investigations are underway in Canada to find out how a message sent by the High Commissioner in London to the External Affairs Department in Ottawa came into the hands of a television network. The message expressed fears that diplomatic telephone conversations were being tapped.

BR power drive urged

The chairman of British Rail called on the Government to approve a programme to electrify more main lines after a study group reported that this would reduce oil use and help manufacturers win more export orders. The investment programme for the railways could cost between £250m and £720m.

Closed shop dismissal

Miss Joanna Harris, aged 20, the poultry inspector who refused to join a union, has been dismissed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands, which operates a closed shop policy. The council's personnel officer said that the names of a number of other non-union employees had been notified.

Airline strike vote

British Airways ground staff to stage one-day stoppages that will halt operations at Heathrow.

Uganda: Troops have arrested a leading politician and businessman in the wake of the attacks on police stations this week

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HOME NEWS

Printing union chiefs called to meeting today on 'Times' bid

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

News International's management has called printing trade union leaders to a meeting today amid hopes that the company is close to agreements required before the five Times Newspapers titles will be sold to it.

Mr Rupert Murdoch intends today to review the results of the past three weeks of negotiations. The union leaders have been told to be available for a meeting at 11 am.

Most union leaders expressed optimism last night that agreement could be reached, and further progress was made in negotiations with individual chapels yesterday. However several unresolved issues remain.

Last night the National Graphical Association (NGA) machine makers' representatives are understood to have given provisional agreement to the reduction by one press to three for night production of the Times. The NGA representatives also proposed a joint examination of machine room staffing arrangements at the Sunday Times.

Representatives of clerical workers belonging to the National Society of Operative Printers Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) on both newspapers also reached provisional agreement on the basis of a reduction of about 130 posts, although the actual job loss would be closer to 10 because of the number of unfilled vacancies.

However, by last night, Natsopa machine room representatives had still not agreed to the use of only three presses on the Times.

Mr Edward O'Brien, national officer of the union, said last night: "We have told the company we do not believe they can satisfactorily produce the paper on three presses and we do not want to be blamed for shortfalls of copies." Mr O'Brien added, however, that he

would be willing to countenance some staff reductions.

Another stumbling block involves Mr Murdoch's proposal to transfer printing of the three supplements to alternative plants. Natsopa machine chapel representatives have offered to produce the supplements on one fewer press than at present, with a consequent loss of 15 jobs, provided the supplements are kept at Grays Inn Road.

Mr O'Brien said he nevertheless remained very optimistic of an agreement being reached with Mr Murdoch. "If you asked me I would say it is Murdoch five to one on."

Mr Leslie Dixon, president of the NGA, said last night: "We have had some tough negotiations. I believe we have come to a conclusion which is ultimately fair. I hope Mr Murdoch will reach the right decision today."

Natsopa leaders were also hoping for an agreement for the Sunday Times machine chapel where, it is believed, the Murdoch team had reduced its request for staff reductions from about 100 to about 40.

Meanwhile letters of understanding for signature by union representatives were being drawn up in the hope that final agreement can be reached today. In that case general secretaries will sign the general agreement and another covering disputes which they initiated on Monday night.

A meeting attended by several hundred of the 2,000 members of Natsopa at the Times last night pressed for an extension of today's deadline for agreement to allow differences to be resolved.

"New mood": Mr William Rees-Mogg, the editor of the Times, told the Foreign Press Association in London yesterday that he believed the Murdoch bid would probably succeed (the Press Association reports).

He said he would be leaving as editor "inside a very short number of weeks" if the plan was successful.

Murdoch assurances over supplements

By Diana Goddes

Mr Rupert Murdoch yesterday gave a commonsense select committee assurances on the editorial independence of the three Times supplements, but made it clear that additional safeguards agreed for the two newspapers through which independent national directors would not apply to the supplements.

He also rejected the idea of including a journalist from the supplements on the board of the Times Newspapers holding company. He had thought it would be a good idea to appoint to the board journalists "of my choice" from the Times and the Sunday Times, but he did not want to increase the board's numbers further.

Mr Murdoch spent more than an hour answering questions put by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts. Any breach of undertakings given to the committee would constitute a contempt of Parliament and could be punishable by imprisonment. The committee plans to publish a report of its proceedings next week.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, the committee's chairman, explained that in view of the statutory guarantee given to the Government in respect of the Times and the Sunday Times, the committee was anxious to canvass what guarantees might be available for the three supplements.

Mr Murdoch said he would be happy to answer any questions but emphasized that the whole exercise is completely hypothetical. "My company has not bought Times Newspapers yet, and it may well not do so," he depended entirely on negotiations and until they were completed "there is no certainty at all". The deadline set by Thomson British Holdings, the present owner, is midnight tonight.

Mr Murdoch added: "There seems to be a bit of a misunderstanding. People think they are doing me a favour in allowing me to take on something

that is losing £13m a year." He was not buying The Times in order to keep the Times of cultural clarity.

"It is most important that everyone on The Times realizes that however important it is as a national newspaper, it is also a business," he said. "There was no greater guarantee of a newspaper's freedom and independence than its viability."

It was his firm intention to move the Printing of the three supplements out of Fleet Street. Confidential negotiations on that were still going with the unions involved.

Unions were naturally anxious to retain their freedom of number of jobs, but he was interested in making the newspapers viable.

There had to be a compromise or 4,000 jobs would be lost. He intended to keep the supplements' editorial staff in London, but not necessarily in the same building as the two newspapers.

He was not prepared to give any long-term guarantees on the future of Times Newspapers; general secretary, Mr Ronald Haywood, the Labour Party's national executive committee was "ill advised and one which you will regret."

Mr Haywood taunted Mrs Williams over her comments on the trade union block vote. "It is the self-same block vote which elected you as a member of the national executive committee for the past 10 years," he said in a letter to Mrs Williams.

"Your 34 years membership of our party has given you the opportunity to serve the party and the country in high ministerial office and I regret that in which you have resigned from the NEC, with full aid from the media, can only have been designed to give maximum aid and comfort to our political opponents."

Mr Haywood said he fully supported Mrs Williams's previous public utterances where she had always maintained that party members who disagreed

Parent company's difficulties and impossibility of making doomed car plant viable 'made shutdown inevitable'

Linwood closure decision seen as a disaster for the West of Scotland

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

There was little surprise in Linwood yesterday that the Talbot UK car plant was to close with the loss of 4,800 jobs; only awful confirmation of what the workers had feared for almost a year.

Redundancies which halved the workforce over the past decade, short-time working, and a clear slump in the car market had been the signs that led to yesterday's decision. Added to that, the factory produced the Avenger and Sunbeam models, neither of which were likely to storm the top of the market even if times had been good.

The workers, whose performance had been unflatteringly compared with that of the workers in the continental factories, complained that much of their equipment was outdated and inefficient.

When the heavy losses of the parent company, Peugeot-SA, were disclosed, any hopes of introducing a new model at Linwood and relieving the plant finally evaporated.

Local councillors spoke gloomily yesterday about the future for the area. The West of Scotland has been badly affected by contraction of the traditional heavy industries. Rationalization has been stalking heavy engineering and steelworks in the area for years and Linwood's death could

mean that eventually one male worker in four will have no job.

British Steel supplies much of the steel used by Linwood from the Gartcosh strip mill. The corporation has been trying hard in recent months to win new customers and last year began supplying steel for the mini Metro and to Peugeot in France.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of the Gartcosh output is used by Linwood, but on a recent visit Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of British Steel, said that if the Linwood plant was forced to close the Scottish steel industry would feel the effect.

Mr Jake Stewart, chairman of the strip

products group of British Steel, said the closure of Linwood was a serious blow to the corporation. British Steel had made determined efforts to find other markets for Scottish strip steel and some success had been achieved.

The final effect of the closure on the Scottish works would depend on how successful the present strategy proved in reducing costs and finding other outlets.

In Linwood, the closure was being looked on in the blackest terms. "A very bad day, one shopkeeper said, although he did feel the town had been half prepared for the closure.

Redundancy bill £20m, Talbot chief says

From a Staff Reporter
Glasgow

It would be impossible to turn the Linwood car plant into a viable operation, Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot UK, said yesterday at a press conference in Glasgow.

"It can never be viable and it is impossible to achieve the necessary through-put," he said. "To be frank, we had to tell the Government that no matter how generous they were, we could not make it viable."

Mr Turnbull made it plain that the company had no intention of reversing its decision to close the plant. He had recommended the closure, he said, although it had been a painful decision.

"We are a volume business and unless there is sufficient volume going through the plant and sufficient return, we cannot make it pay," he said.

"The domestic market has fallen and export possibilities were negligible because of the strength of sterling. Linwood had always had an export

volume but this was no longer available."

Mr Turnbull said the factors which had led to closure were the overheads at Linwood, the model being produced there and the transport costs involved in having the plant in Scotland. "Circumstances are such that this is the only sensible thing we can do," he said.

Half the £41m loss made by the company in 1979 could be attributed to the Linwood plant but Mr Turnbull repeatedly insisted that there was no criticism of the work force there.

"I think we can understand the reaction of people at Linwood. There must be some disappointment to put it mildly, but to be frank, any militant action would be very counter productive. In no way could it influence the decision. We have done everything we could possibly do to save the plant and we are as distressed as anybody to make this announcement."

He said the company's plans had been firm and successful until the end of the first quarter of 1980 when the British market began to shrink rapidly and put a complete stop to the company's affairs.

Mr Turnbull said that in his talks with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, the outstanding loan of £28m from the Government which was guaranteed by Peugeot SA had not been mentioned. The company had repaid a secured loan of £22m.

The company estimated that the redundancy bill at Linwood would be about £20m.

Peugeot steadily losing sales to its main competitors

By Peter Wainwright
Motoring Correspondent

The decision to close Linwood must be seen against the background of Peugeot's growing difficulties in France, where it has been losing sales steadily

both to its main rival, the state-owned Renault, and to imported cars.

In 1979, Peugeot, Citroën and Talbot together held just over 43 per cent of the new car market in France, compared with Renault's 55 per cent. Last year

the positions were almost reversed, with the Peugeot group managing less than 37 per cent and Renault climbing to 40.5 per cent.

This year has seen a further slump, with a total market 12 per cent down on January 1980. Peugeot and Citroën sales both fell by a quarter. Imports during the same month rose from 20 per cent to nearly 28 per cent compared with a year ago, with keenly priced German cars making the running.



Mr George Turnbull, the chairman of Talbot UK, at the Linwood press conference in Glasgow yesterday.

Scots TUC pledges backing for plant's shop stewards in fight for jobs

By Staff Reporters

Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said yesterday that the closure of the Talbot plant at Liverpool would have a disastrous effect on the West of Scotland. He said male unemployment was 13.9 per cent with 5,000 added to the unemployment queues that could become 25 per cent.

The impact would also be felt among companies serving Linwood and its workers. The Scottish TUC would support the shop stewards at the plant in any action they decided to take to oppose the closure.

"We have to do everything we possibly can to get this decision reversed," he said. "Peugeot-Citroën must be forced to change their mind. If that campaign was unsuccessful the Government must do everything in its power to persuade another company to take over the plant or to bring new jobs into the Linwood area."

"We expect our Government to do what the French Government would have done if the boot had been on the other foot, and we had announced a closure of a British factory in France. There is some very tough action that could be taken."

Mr Milne said the Scottish TUC was not seeking to gain advantages at another area's expense. It simply wanted to safeguard the Linwood jobs.

Scottish representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) pledged support for the Linwood workers.

But Mr Hugh Wyper, Scottish secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, admitted that tough action would have been easier if Peugeot-Citroën had decided to withdraw completely from the United Kingdom. Any action against the company would have to take account of the wider implications of jobs in England.

National union leaders will back campaigns by the Linwood shop stewards and the Scottish TUC to reverse the closure decision, although they appeared last night to have a slim hope of success.

Mr Gavin Laird, Scottish executive member of the AUEW, said before attending a meeting with Talbot's men British management with other national union officers that he was appalled at a "shattering blow" to the region.

Although union officials last night's meeting strongly attacked management both in the closure decision and the manner of its announcement, they are likely to hold conversations with local shop stewards before deciding what concrete steps, if any, can be taken.

Mr Laird, saying that the plant's closure would mean a unemployment rate of close to 40 per cent in the district, added: "This will leave a deep scar on the West of Scotland on the point of collapse. It is not just the plant itself but the spin-off effect on smaller businesses which have grown up in support of the plant that we are concerned about."

Mr Laird said the possibility of a ban on Peugeot-Citroën imports into this country at even occupation of the plant were options that would not be ruled out in discussions.

In any case he hoped that big campaign, the basis of which had been laid by a continued uncertainty over the plant's future coupled with short time working for months, would be launched partly through the medium of the Scottish TUC.

In Brussels, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that he was extremely disappointed and sad at the news.

Speaking to journalists in Brussels, where he was attending a meeting of EEC agriculture and fisheries ministers, Mr Younger disclosed that he was calling an urgent meeting of the Confederation of British Industries, the Scottish TUC, the Scottish Development Agency and the Scottish Economic Planning Department to see what could be done to replace the 4,800 jobs that would be lost.

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Leading article, page 16.

Business feature, page 16.

Mrs Williams 'will regret decision'

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mrs Shirley Williams was told yesterday by Mr Ronald Haywood, the Labour Party's general secretary, that her decision to leave the party's national executive committee was "ill advised and one which you will regret."

Mr Haywood taunted Mrs Williams over her comments on the trade union block vote. "It is the self-same block vote which elected you as a member of the national executive committee for the past 10 years," he said in a letter to Mrs Williams.

"Your 34 years membership of our party has given you the opportunity to serve the party and the country in high ministerial office and I regret that in which you have resigned from the NEC, with full aid from the media, can only have been designed to give maximum aid and comfort to our political opponents."

Mr Haywood said he fully supported Mrs Williams's previous public utterances where she had always maintained that party members who disagreed

with party policy should stay inside the party and work for their particular point of view. "Those of us with a lifetime membership of the Labour Party intend to continue to struggle for democratic socialism," Mr Haywood said.

Mr Alex Kison, the party chairman, wrote to Mrs Williams: "I find some of your remarks very offensive. You and I have often disagreed on political issues but to infer, as I think you do, that I and others do not care about the future and the fate of the party is not only wrong but insulting."

I shall continue to fight for democratic socialism within the party and as part of that for parliamentary democracy." Mr Wedgwood Benn, speaking at Godalming, Surrey, last night, said that those supporters of a new centre party were putting up a smokescreen by explaining that the emergence of the new group was all caused by a change in the Labour Party.

It had not changed, he insisted, what had changed was opinion in Britain about the European Economic Community.

Mr Neville Sandelson, a sup-

porter of the Council for Social Democracy, told a meeting in his Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington constituency: "It saddens me that the Labour Party has become a by-word nationally for all that is rotten and corrupt in political organisation."

He indicated that he would stand as a social democratic candidate at the next election. Mr Horam's decision: Mr John Horam, Labour MP for Tottenham, told his constituency party last night that he would not be available for re-election at the next General Election (the Press Association reports).

Mr Horam who has expressed his support for the Council for Social Democracy, made his announcement at the constituency's annual meeting. "Tightly knit" group: Right-wing unions planning to overturn the Vemby Labour Party conference decision giving the unions the biggest say in choosing future party leaders have agreed to form a tightly-knit political grouping (Our Labour Editor writes).

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Letters, page 15

16,000 Ford workers face new lay-off as lorry drivers defy their union

Lorry drivers at the Ford plant at Dagenham, east London, yesterday defied union orders to go back to work.

Mr Ronald Todd, national organiser of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the drivers that the union did not recognize pickets at the plant, but the men voted to stay out.

The pickets were set up by drivers employed by Silcock and Colling, one of Ford's main delivery agents.

The 16,000 Ford workers laid off since the previous dispute, who returned to work on Tuesday, face the prospect of being sent home again, probably today.

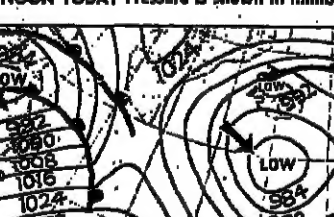
Ford announced later that 800 workers in smaller plants at Dagenham, 1,400 at Langley and 300 at Aveley have been laid off.

Talks are still going on between Silcock and Colling and a union officials.

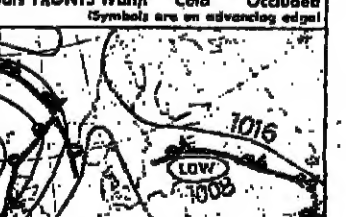
The Silcock men had refused to cross the Ford picket lines during their dispute about using outside contractors to haulage journeys to the plant. Now the Silcock men want their lost pay made and the reinstatement of Collier, who have been dismissed.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



NOON TODAY



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Diary, page 14
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Coal board seeks local support for pit closures

By Our Labour Editor

The National Coal Board is moving swiftly in an effort to secure local consent from the miners on its plans to close many pits and reduce the industry's labour force by up to 30,000 over the next two years.

Meetings have been called with area leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers to discuss which pits in their coalfields fail to meet new criteria for long-term viability. Between 20 and 50 pits could be closed under coal board plans.

The NCB's strategy of moving negotiation of its crisis plan from national to local level will come under strong attack today when the NUM national executive meets in London to determine the miners' next step.

Left-wing coalfield leaders are seeking to mobilize rank-and-file unrest at a mass meeting, being held after this morning's executive meeting.

Michael McGahey, Communist president of the Scots pitmen will take the chair at the rally, and Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners is to speak. His area has already voted more than four to one in favour of strike action against unacceptable pit closures.

BA faces lightning strikes over pay

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

British Airways faces a series of lightning strikes by 20,000 maintenance and ground service staff from the end of next week which will close the airline's operations at Heathrow airport, London.

The men, who belong to seven unions, voted a mass meeting yesterday for industrial action after rejecting the company's latest offer, which would involve a six-month pay freeze for most workers.

Ramp workers and ground services staff, who comprise about half the airline's manual workforce at Heathrow, have

been told the company will honour an agreement on uprating index-linked shifts and London weighting payments due in July if the workers accept postponement of an 8 per cent pay offer.

The pay settlement was due on January 1, and was postponed until April 1 because of BA's financial crisis. A similar restructuring offer was put to leaders of 9,000 engineering maintenance workers later yesterday.

The mass meeting in an airport hangar lasted about 20 minutes and was attended by about 10,000 workers who rejected the airline's offer by an

overwhelming majority. They had claimed a cost of living increase.

Several short-haul flights were cancelled because of the meeting and a few long distance flights were re-timed. A one-day strike on January 23 closed all the airline's operations at Heathrow and caused disruption for several days.

Mr Gordon Clark, chairman of the joint shop stewards committee, said yesterday's vote was very encouraging. "But I still hope we might be able to come to an agreement in time to call it off," he said. "We have given them 10 days to come up with something."

Prison officers' back call to suspend action

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers yesterday backed at a national delegate conference their national executive's call to suspend industrial action.

But Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, was pessimistic last night about the prospects of resolving the dispute in the way in which Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has suggested.

Mr Whitelaw has refused to go to arbitration as officers want, but sees a solution in a new attendance system. The dispute is about a claim for payment for meal breaks.

Mr Steel said that members were not at all enthusiastic about Mr Whitelaw's solution. He and other association leaders are to continue negotiations with the Prison Department.

The delegate conference yesterday was called in accordance with a timetable given in the High Court after it was ruled that the association's leadership acted unlawfully in instructing members to suspend industrial action without convening a special delegate conference.

Talks on terms for seamen's return to work

By Our Labour Staff

Shipping employers and National Union of Seamen leaders are expected to meet today to discuss terms for agreed arbitrations which would bring an end to the five-week dispute in the industry.

Both sides agreed yesterday to the principle of arbitration, but today's talks at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) are to determine what should be the terms of reference and

conditions of a return to work while the review proceeds.

The General Council of British Shipping said after a preliminary study of the union's list of conditions for a return to work that while it welcomed the union's acceptance of the principle of arbitration, it still had to agree acceptable terms.

The union told the employers it wanted an immediate interim payment of 12 per cent and for the arbitration to concern its claim for time-and-a-half over-

time payments and double-time at weekends and holidays.

As conditions for a return to work, it was seeking a dispute a pledge of no victimization, reinstatement of those dismissed during the dispute and back pay for those suspended who had offered themselves for work.

Although there was optimism in the industry about an early settlement, the General Council was last night reluctant to comment in detail.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am, 8.2°C (47°F); min 6 pm, 0.3°C (32°F). Humidity, 55 per cent. Rain, 24hr, 6 pm, 11.5 mm. Sun, 24hr to 6.1. 7.5hr. Bar, mean sea level, 1.024 mbars. Wind, 24hr, 1.090 mbars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices

Commodity	Unit	Price
Aluminium	ton	1,100
Asphalt	ton	1,100
Barley	ton	1,100
Benzene	ton	1,100
Bran	ton	1,100
Brown sugar	ton	1,100
Butane	ton	1,100
Cardamom	ton	1,100
Cashew	ton	1,100
Cashew nut	ton	1,100
Cashew seed	ton	1,100
Cashew shell	ton	1,100
Cashew skin	ton	1,100
Cashew waste	ton	1,100
Cashew oil	ton	1,100
Cashew meal	ton	1,100
Cashew flour	ton	1,100
Cashew cake	ton	1,100
Cashew pulp	ton	1,100
Cashew husk	ton	1,100
Cashew shell	ton	1,100
Cashew skin	ton	1,100
Cashew waste	ton	1,100
Cashew oil	ton	1,100
Cashew meal	ton	1,100
Cashew flour	ton	1,100
Cashew cake	ton	1,100
Cashew pulp	ton	1,100
Cashew husk	ton	1,100

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HOME NEWS

Electrification of main rail lines would bring profits and export orders, report says

A big programme of electrification on Britain's main railway lines would be profitable and have several other important advantages, according to a report published yesterday, of three years' study carried out jointly by British Rail and the Department of Transport.

It says that although electrification would not affect total energy consumption it would reduce the amount of oil used and would also help manufacturers to win more export orders.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, welcomed the report and called on the Government to approve a rolling programme to electrify more main lines. He said the report shows that there is a profitable case which should make the case for more electrification irresistible.

A more cautious response came from Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, who was sent the report six months ago. He said in a recent parliamentary reply that he would have to "consider carefully the prospects of the British Railways Board's commercial business and how the funds to finance electrification might be generated".

After examining various options for main line electrification, Mr Michael Pocher, a member of British Railways Board, and Mr John Palmer, an Under Secretary at the Department of Transport, the joint chairman of the study group, say that all the larger programmes showed an internal rate of return of 11 per cent.

The most ambitious scheme (option 5) would mean that by the year 2000 more than half Britain's railways would be electrified and that 83 per cent of all passengers and 68 per cent of all freight would be electrically hauled. All the schemes examined would be profitable, though the quickest, in spite of being the most demanding in terms of investment, would give the best returns.

The report says: "If funds for railway financing were not constrained, the best course would be to choose now the largest and fastest programme".

On the question of when to begin an electrification programme, it is pointed out that much of British Rail's traction and rolling stock will have to be replaced in the next 10 to 15 years. If electrification is delayed new diesels would have to be bought and then possibly scrapped before the end of their working life.

With an eye, perhaps, on government reluctance to commit itself to investment programmes ranging between £250m and £720m at 1978 prices, the report's authors advance arguments for going beyond what they call "a strategic decision in principle". They want a commitment to a specific programme.

The four main options examined were:

Base option 1: The existing network plus existing electrification schemes (London, St Pancras, to Bedford; Colchester to Norwich and Harwich; Bishop's Cleeve to Cambridge; Edge Hill to Earlestown, Manchester to Euxton junction and Preston to Blackpool; Paisley to Ayr; Kilwinning to Largs and Springburn to Cumbernauld).

Option 2: Electrification from London northwards, including the east coast main line to Leeds and Newcastle; the Midland main line via Sheffield, Birmingham to York, Edinburgh to Glasgow and Edinburgh to Carlisle.

Option 3: A medium network encompassing all the main inter-city routes, in addition to those in Option 2, those would include London to Bristol, South Wales and Plymouth; Birmingham to Taunton; Newcastle to Edinburgh; and Manchester to Leeds.

Option 4: The largest scheme, extending electrification from Plymouth to Penzance; Crewe to Holyhead; Edinburgh to Aberdeen and Doncaster to Hull. (Option 4 was not pursued after the interim report of 1979 was issued.)

The report says that decisions have to be made on when to start and how fast to work.

ELECTRIFIED MILEAGE IN EACH OPTION (excluding sidings)

Option	Route miles	Per cent of present network	Per cent of passenger and freight mileage electrically hauled
Option 1: Base	2,580	23	23
II: Modest	3,460	31	38
III: Medium	4,620	42	54
V: Large	5,750	52	68

Total BR network at 11,780 miles

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West German terror suspect flies home

By Stewart Tandler

Crime Reporter
A West German wanted by the Bonn authorities for alleged terrorist activities in the early 1970s flew home last night after being arrested by detectives in London.

Michael Baumann, aged 34, is alleged to have been a member of the Movement Second June before fleeing into exile and renouncing any connexion with West German terrorist groups. Scotland Yard said that he had left London Airport voluntarily, accompanied by West German police officers.

But Mr Lawrence Grant, a solicitor approached by Herr Baumann's friends, said he intended to protest strongly to Scotland Yard. He said that he had sought access to Herr Baumann since 2.30 pm on Tuesday but that the police had not allowed him to see the arrested suspect.

Yesterday afternoon Mr Grant sent a letter to Scotland Yard calling for access and complaining that although the police had said that Herr Baumann had stated he wanted to go back to West Germany, his decision had been made without legal advice.

Mr Grant said that shortly after Herr Baumann left Britain he received a reply from Mr Colin Hewitt, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner in



Michael Baumann: Left voluntarily, police say.

charge of the Special Branch, who said that the West German had signed a statement that he wished to go home. Mr Hewitt was sure that he knew the consequences of his decision, but would be told that Mr Grant was prepared to act for him.

Herr Baumann was arrested at a house in Hackney. He is known to have been in Britain for at least eight months and was just about to start a job as a carpenter.

MP is determined to back telephone tap amendment

By Our Political Reporter

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, failed yesterday to dissuade Mr John Gort, Conservative MP for Barnet, Hendon North, from backing a Labour-sponsored clause which will impose legal constraints on telephone tapping.

The two met at Mr Whitelaw's residence, but Mr Gort, who is a member of the Commons committee considering the telecommunications Bill, told him that he intended to table an amendment at the Bill's report stage.

The new clause would require the Home Secretary to issue a warrant before telephone messages could be intercepted and would ban tapping for political reasons.

Mr Gort wants to extend the scope of the clause in one particular but reduce it in another. The clause includes terrorist or espionage activity but Mr Gort wants the word "subversive" included as was proposed in the White Paper on interference in communications published last year.

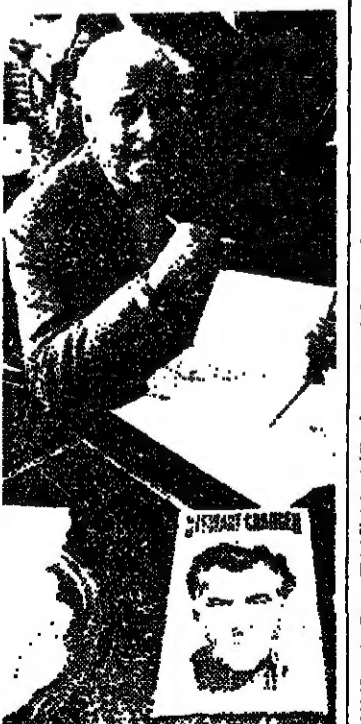
Joint principles, including new proposals for a devolved Ulster government, have been agreed between the Ulster Party of Northern Ireland, founded by Lord Faulkner of Downpatrick, who died in 1977, and the Ulster Popular Unionist Party, set up by Mr James Kilfedder, MP for Down, North.

A pact is also likely in the council elections in May, Mrs Anne Dickson, leader of the UPNI, said it was hoped to fight in every district and that the new grouping would probably be the third in size after the Official Unionists and the Democratic Unionists.

The agreed principles include a Bill of rights and a devolved government with scope for all parties.

Not held in law to be indecent. This will make a far more effective and enforceable piece of legislation than the present Bill. Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said he could understand the desire to try to define more precisely the objectionable nature of the material whose display the Bill was concerned.

But he remained convinced that it was preferable to keep the term "indecent" as used in statutes for about hundred years. "Indecent" should be left as the decisive concept.



Actor's story: Stewart Tandler signing copies of his autobiography, "Sparks Fly Upwards", in London yesterday.

Bill to curb indecent displays 'a rehash'

Our Parliamentary Staff
The private member's Bill aims to control the public display of indecent matter was a rehash of existing legislation which had failed to deal with the issue, Dr Shirley Summerskill, opposition spokeswoman on home affairs, said yesterday.

I am very concerned the use will pass this Bill and adult book producers will get it and carry on just as they are doing. I am convinced the police will feel it is not really improve on existing legislation", she said at the opening of the committee

stage of the Indecent Displays (Control) Bill.

The Government backs the broad objectives of the Bill, which received an unopposed second reading last month. It becomes law a person who displays indecent matter will be guilty of an offence.

Dr Summerskill, Labour MP for Halifax, said a falling of existing legislation and of the Bill was the use of the word "indecent". She proposed that it should be replaced by "offensive to reasonable people".

She said: "I do feel that the word 'offensive' will catch a great many displays which are

not held in law to be indecent. This will make a far more effective and enforceable piece of legislation than the present Bill.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said he could understand the desire to try to define more precisely the objectionable nature of the material whose display the Bill was concerned.

But he remained convinced that it was preferable to keep the term "indecent" as used in statutes for about hundred years. "Indecent" should be left as the decisive concept.

Award scheme celebrates a silver success

The Duke of Edinburgh said last night that his award scheme had provided hundreds of thousands of young people with a kind of education they did not get in school.

Speaking at a dinner at Mansion House to mark the award's twenty-fifth anniversary, he said: "You do not learn about such things as human relations, civilized behaviour, concern for others, self-discipline, fitness or even practical morality sitting at a desk, yet these are all part of education".

HOME NEWS

London hospitals to lose more than 4,000 acute beds in return for better geriatric and mental service

By Nicholas Timmins

London is to lose more than 4,000, or almost one in seven, of its acute medical and surgical beds over the next seven years, in return for more geriatric, mental illness and mental handicap beds, and improved community services.

A report from the London Advisory Group, endorsed by ministers yesterday, says acute services should be concentrated in 23 of the larger hospitals, including the dozen main teaching hospitals.

But about thirty smaller, local hospitals, which have not been named, will lose some or all of their acute beds, and change to providing geriatric, mental illness or community services. Some will be closed.

The changes, the most radical London's hospital system will have undergone since the National Health Service was founded, were described as "a great day for London's health care" by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health.

Health authorities should make urgent plans taking the report into account, he said. They should consult in the usual way, but he would watch progress to see that things really move.

The policy was greeted with some caution by the British Medical Association, which said that unless family doctor and other primary services were improved quickly, patients would face greater difficulties.

"If the reduction in acute beds proceeds before measures are taken to enhance family doctor and other primary health care services, an even greater strain will be thrown upon GPs who are already struggling to cope."

Dr Vaughan said the policy would end years of uncertainty, in which a number of teaching hospitals have been threatened and would mean resources could be transferred from acute services to those neglected areas in which London was ill-provided. The capital, for example, has 15 per cent too few geriatric beds.

The report recommends that a large proportion of the savings made by having fewer acute beds should be retained to develop those services. In a foreword, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, says he agrees with that suggestion, but future allocations will depend on the relative needs of the Thames region and the rest of the country.

The report argues that inner London's falling population, expected to be down to 2.5 million by 1990, has had to place too much reliance on acute beds because of poor geriatric, long-stay, family doctor and community services. These were expensive and not necessarily in patients' interests.

It accepts that the number of acute beds should be cut from 26,650 in 1979 to 22,500 by 1988; the reduction of 4,120 being split roughly between inner and outer London.

In return, it is essential that geriatric, community and primary care services are improved, to unblock acute beds being filled by elderly patients requiring longer-term care, and to cope with the earlier discharges of patients now taking place.

Commenting on family doctor services, the report says improvements may depend more on central government than local action.

The report argues that the main acute services should be concentrated where the greatest investment has been in the teaching hospitals in the centre of London, and at those like St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham Road, and the Westminster Hospital, Highgate.

The alternative strategy of cuts across the board would hamper big hospitals and make smaller ones not viable, while shutting an important hospital could not easily be justified where less suitable hospitals would need considerable investment.

Accessibility is not on the whole a serious difficulty, the report says. The retention of the central London teaching hospitals would ease the medical schools' job of finding enough patients.

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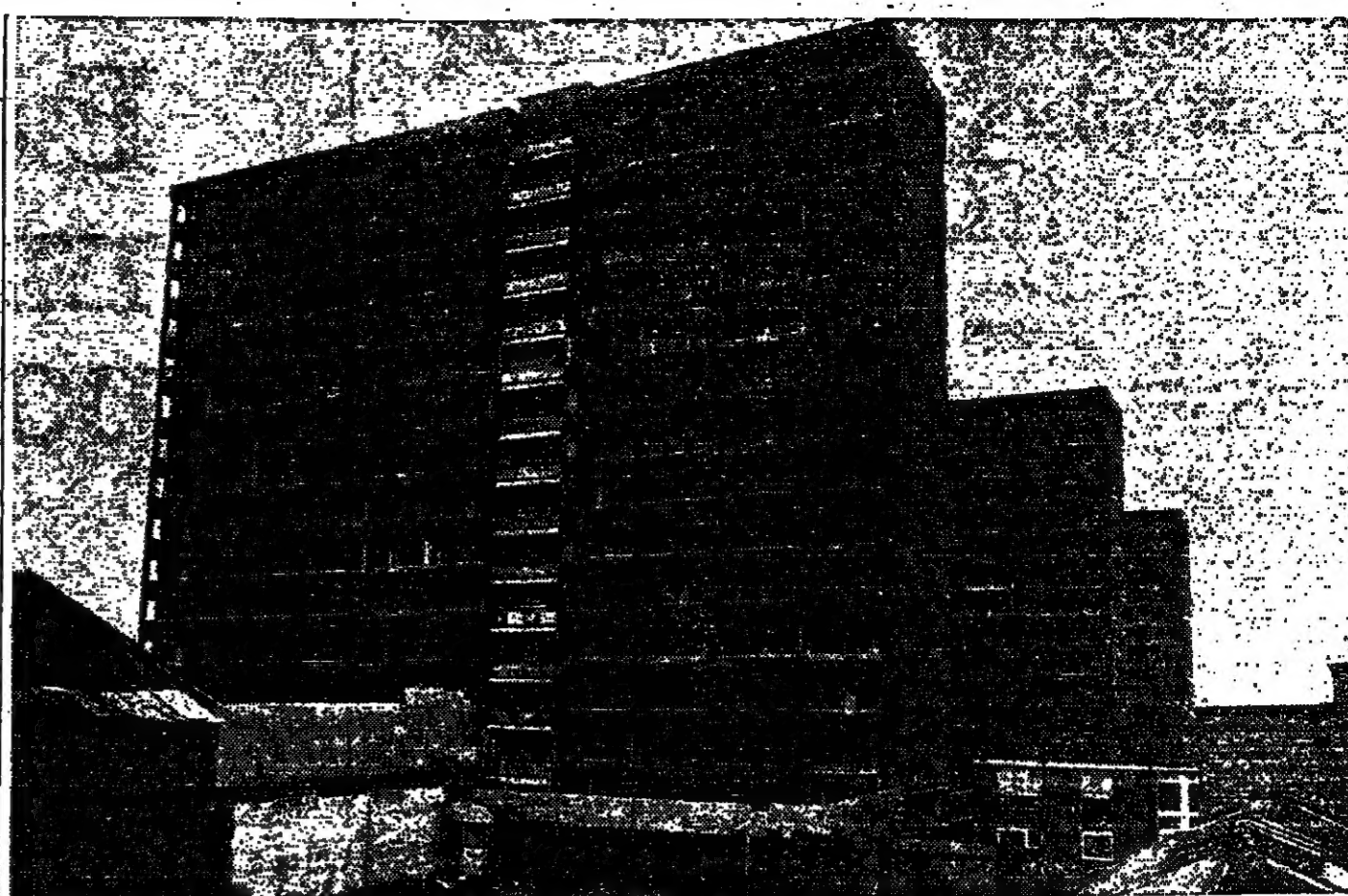
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"Piggeries" sold: Contracts were exchanged yesterday between Liverpool City Council and a private property company for the sale of the three large blocks of flats (photographed above), which are locally nicknamed "The Piggeries" (John Young writes from Liverpool). The council decided several months ago to sell the three blocks after they had been persistently damaged by vandals to the point where

potential tenants refused to move there. After considering various tenders it accepted an offer from Marquee Securities, of London. Although the purchase price was nominal, persistent doubts have been expressed about whether the deal would go through. Even after yesterday's news, there was scepticism about the company's prospects of selling the renovated flats on the open market at an estimated

£10,000 each. One suggestion was that they might be purchased by the local health authority or the university for accommodation for nurses or students. Mr Richard Kemp, chairman of the council's housing committee, said yesterday that legal complications had delayed the exchange of contracts. He thought the flats would appeal to single people and childless couples and admitted that they should never have been offered to families.

Government licenses dog disease vaccine

By Hugh Clayton

The first government licence was issued yesterday for production of a vaccine against disease which has killed hundreds of dogs in Britain.

The licence was given to Daphar Veterinary Ltd of Southampton by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to manufacture a vaccine against canine parvovirus.

Mr Keith Davies, a Yorkshire veterinary surgeon, said at a press conference held in London by Daphar yesterday: "We are still seeing cases in our area every week. We are having about one death a week even now."

"We originally thought the term 'killer virus' was very exaggerated statement, but we soon found that it was not very far from the truth."

The new vaccine will supercede car vaccine, which we found last year to give no protection against the disease, but was never licensed by the Government for use on dogs.

Professor Robert Johnson who worked on the dog vaccine at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia, said yesterday that different animals were affected by different varieties of parvovirus.

The parvovirus which affects dogs was a mutation which affected animals in the family including cats and leopards. "This feline virus is very dangerous one," he said.

Mr Davies said the disease affected dogs very suddenly. A puppy that was a right one minute would suddenly become breathless and drop dead. When one puppy a litter had been affected it others were almost certain eventually to die from the disease even though they appeared perfectly healthy.

Mrs Barbara Woodhouse, author and television broadcaster about dog-training, said the arrival of the new vaccine was "absolutely terrific". She added: "I heard this morning of an entire kennel being wiped out by parvovirus; it was inoculated with feline vaccine."

Digging up the roots
The Irish Genealogical Association has been established in Belfast to help Irish expatriates to trace their family history.

Mr Stonehouse's mother dies aged 87

Mrs Rosina Stonehouse, aged 87, the mother of Mr John Stonehouse, the former Labour Cabinet minister, died in hospital during the night, it was announced yesterday.

She had been ill for some time and was admitted to Southampton general hospital early last month after a stroke. She died a short while after news of her son's marriage to Mrs Sheila Buckley, his former secretary, became public.

Mr Stonehouse said yesterday that his mother gave her blessing to the marriage, which was in Hampshire on January 31. Mrs Stonehouse, a former mayor of Southampton, was a veteran Labour Party worker.

Fishermen fined for obstruction

By Richard Ford

Eleven fishermen who were arrested while picketing at Grimsby and Fleetwood ended last night and it is expected that inshore vessels will sail today. As the controversy over cheap imports continued, 12 fishermen were handed in two crates of cod, bought on the quayside at Grimsby, to 10 Downing Street.

On the crates were the words: "Fishermen get 50p for this, it sells in the shops for £1.50p". The 12 women, led by Lesley Todd, whose husband is chairman of Humberside Fishing Association, handed in a petition calling for aid to the industry and end to cheap imports. They were supported by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby.

Elsewhere in Britain, inshore fishermen from Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft held up 70 tonnes of imported Dutch fish for several hours at Great Yarmouth. In the South-west, fishermen will meet in Plymouth today to set up a coordinating committee and start a fighting fund to finance protests.

At Fleetwood, Lancashire, 70 inshore vessels returned to sea yesterday at the end of a three-day tie-up with a warning from the merchants that they will boycott inshore fish if there is further disruption. The warning followed an incident in which 5000 damage was done to lorries belonging to one of the port's main merchants. The fishermen have denied responsibility.

Brussels talks, page 6

In brief

£64,000 award for nurses

Seven female nurses at the Peterborough district hospital have been awarded a total of £64,000 in compensation for back injuries sustained on duty, mainly because of lifting patients. The payments are the result of out-of-court settlements after a four-year legal battle by the National Union of Public Employees.

One of the nurses received £30,000 and other payments ranged from £3,000 to £8,500.

Blast wrecks home

Mr Alan Morson and his wife June were rescued with minor injuries by neighbours from the rubble when their home in Lingards Road, Slough, was destroyed by an explosion yesterday. Their two children also escaped. The gas board is investigating.

Hindley honours try

Myra Hindley, who last year took a BA degree in the Open University while serving her life sentence for the Moors murders, has been given permission to go on for an honours degree.

Beaten by moles

Mole hills on two council-owned football pitches in Peterborough have forced two clubs to use other grounds. The council is providing other pitches free of charge until it finds ways of eliminating the mole hills.

JP found dead

Mr William Beattall, aged 57, an Essex magistrate since 1961, was found dead with gunshot wounds yesterday at his farm at Wakering, near Southend. A shotgun was near by.

Prince trains for race

The Prince of Wales went for a training gallop at Lamour early yesterday in preparation for his race at Newbury on Saturday, when he will ride his hunter Alibi.

Furnace blast hurts 3

Three men were hurt yesterday when molten metal exploded in a furnace at the British Steel Corporation's River Don steel works in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

British Steel fined

The British Steel Corporation was fined £100 with £40 costs by magistrates at Chichester, Sussex, yesterday after it admitted a short weight delivery of stainless steel.

PC's rescue fails

Police Constable Alexander Hart, aged 22, was overcome by fumes yesterday while trying to rescue Mr Frederick Leighton, aged 90, who died in a fire at his home in Upper Elmers End Road, Beckenham, south London.

Move to reduce size of marginal constituency

By Michael Horsnell

The marginal parliamentary constituency of Oxford, regained for the Conservatives at the last general election by Mr John Patten with a majority of 1,497 votes, might be cut in size under a provisional recommendation issued by the Boundary Commission for England today.

The city's electors, who had given Mr Evan Luard, the former Labour MP a majority of 1,036 in October, 1974, will be cut from £81,709 to 60,201.

Six wards of the city would form part of a realigned Abingdon constituency, whose electorate would also be reduced, from 96,447 at the last general election to 63,076.

Under the proposed changes Oxfordshire would have six parliamentary seats, compared with the present three plus parts of four others. The constituencies of Banbury and Henley will remain, with adjustments to reduce their electorates, and two new ones emerge, Wantage and Witney.

Under other proposals, Buckinghamshire would have six seats, compared with the present four and part of one other. A new seat of Milton Keynes, comprising all but three of the wards of the new town, would emerge.

'Nightmare' search for good pub food

"Our search was something of a nightmare", Mr Ronny complains, citing "inedible travesties of sandwiches, pastry-covered mush sold as pasties, shrivelled bread sausages, and the great British hide-all, curry."

The inspectors found that food in free houses was best, while public houses with managers, as opposed to tenants, served the poorest food.

A poll among the publicans who were successful in getting their houses into the guide showed that only one in 25 attributed his success with customers to the beer he served. More thought it was because of their own personalities while one in six credited to bar food. More than half thought the attraction of their public house was in atmosphere.

The relative unimportance of beer was emphasized by Christopher Goss, landlord of the Greyhound Inn, St. Fitzpaine, near Taunton Somerset, who was voted Ronny's 1981 Pub of the Year. "I have just changed six of the seven beers I keep," Goss said, "and I do not think any of the customers minds Egon Ronny's Raleigh Pub Guide 1981 (Penguin, £2.25)."

Transport budget cut of £5.2m for Merseyside

Merseyside County Council's transport committee yesterday approved five thousand public houses out of many more which had been recommended.

"The failure rate was enormous", he says. Only 935 were accepted for inclusion in the guide. A third of those in last year's edition were eliminated.

Average county council rate rises below 10pc

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Rate increases in the non-metropolitan counties in England and Wales for 1981-82 should average less than 10 per cent, the Association of County Councils was told in London yesterday by Mr Ian Cottle, chairman of the association's finance committee.

The counties have gained from the Government's decision to switch resources to their areas away from London and the other main contributions. That increased their share of government grant by 1.8 per cent.

Rate precept increase among the counties vary widely and include a nil increase in Wiltshire, 3 per cent in Cheshire, 6.4 per cent in Somerset, 13 per cent in Derbyshire and 18 per cent in Gloucestershire.

There will be an application for a 15 per cent rise in fares in July, the third in 18 months, and a reduction in buses and trains operating in the late evening and on Sundays.

The Mersey ferries will continue to operate in the peak commuter periods.

Labour opposed each item of the package unsuccessfully in a debate which lasted three hours.

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WEST EUROPE

Compromise proposals by Dutch to end EEC fishing dispute

From Michael Horasby
Brussels, Feb 11

EEC ministers of agriculture were tonight presented with proposals for resolving the dispute between Britain and France over access for continental fishing boats to British coastal waters.

The access question has emerged during the past three days as the most important obstacle to agreement on an EEC fisheries policy, over which member states have been arguing on and off for more than five years.

Both Mr Peter Walker, the British Minister of Agriculture, and his French counterpart, Mr Daniel Hoefel, reacted very sceptically to the new proposals, but neither rejected them out of hand.

The two ministers said they would need to know more about the detail of what was intended. The Danish and Irish ministers also expressed doubts, for different reasons, while most other states reacted favourably.

The new proposals, which were drawn up by Mr Gerrit Braks, the Dutch minister chairing the meeting, would limit fishing activity in areas off the north of Scotland and in the northern part of the Irish Sea by controlling the number and size of boats allowed to fish there.

In the area off the north of Scotland vessels above 80 feet in length would be banned from specified "boxes" within 12 miles of the Orkneys and Shetlands. In an as yet unspecified zone beyond 12 miles the number of boats allowed in

would be controlled under licence.

In the Irish Sea zone all boats above 110 feet would need licences. These restrictions, as also off the north of Scotland, would apply only to boats catching white fish such as plaice, cod, haddock and whiting. Herring and mackerel fishing would not be restricted.

The proposals are designed to give an advantage to inshore fleets from local ports over bigger boats sailing from other member states. Although an improvement on previous offers, the Dutch compromise still falls a long way short of what Mr Walker was demanding.

In the Irish Sea and off the north of Scotland Mr Walker wants waters lying between 12 and 50 miles to be closed to all boats above 80 feet in length. He is also insisting that a 12-mile belt round the entire British coast should be almost exclusively reserved for local fishermen.

Mr Hoefel today received strong backing from the French Cabinet for his insistence that there should be virtually no controls outside 12 miles and that France's "high seas" catch within these limits should be maintained.

Aid illegal: The European Commission has told Mr Walker that it considers national aids given to French farmers in the fishery sector to be illegal.

Thorn attack: Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, told the European Assembly that member governments were hindering the development of the Community (Reuter writes from Luxembourg).

Paris gives Mr Sadat a warm welcome

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 11

President Sadat of Egypt was received here today with exceptional honours by President d'Estaing—an indication of the French leader's desire to restore friendly personal relations, which had become strained in recent years by divergences over the Camp David agreements.

Although this is only a private visit, the protocol deployed on the occasion was practically that of a state occasion. The French President and his wife met the Egyptian presidential couple at Orly airport; a guard of honour was on hand.

M Giscard d'Estaing, who is particular about protocol, intended to make the welcome an especially friendly gesture—a return for President Sadat's expressed desire to come to Paris after his speech to the European Parliament in Luxembourg yesterday.

The moment is well chosen for a revival of the old warm relationship between Egypt and France. The peace process initiated at Camp David is deepening and there is a new Administration in Washington, which has yet to clearly define its stand on a Middle East settlement.

The Egyptian President is now turning Europe for help in getting the peace talks back on the rails, and sees in the initiative of the European Community a useful approach to the Palestinian problem.

The talks at the Elysée Palace, after a private luncheon, lasted two hours. They were described as both "very cordial and very frank".



President Giscard d'Estaing and his wife greeting President Sadat of Egypt and Mrs Sadat at Orly airport.

Europe asked to provide peace-keeping force

From David Wood
Luxembourg, Feb 11

President Sadat of Egypt defined for journalists at Luxembourg airport today some of the significant phrases he left vague when he addressed the European Parliament yesterday.

Above all, he made it clear that his proposal for Europe to offer additional security guarantees could include a peace-keeping force to reinforce economic and political steps in Arab-Israeli relations. He also

explained that when he used the phrase "Palestinian entity" in Israel he did not have the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in mind.

After two personally successful days of diplomacy in the Grand Duchy, during which he met Mr Gaston Thorn, the president of the European Commission, President Sadat and his wife were on their way to Paris.

Speaking to journalists, President Sadat recognized that his

phraseology had not been clear. "I am asking for a European initiative," he said. "Europe must take its share of responsibility" now or later when guarantees would be essential to reach an agreement.

He explained that additional security guarantees did not exclude a European peace-keeping force as an accompaniment to economic and political plans. The most important thing, he said, was to give the Arab states guarantees not only by the Uni-

ted States but also by Europe. Mr Sadat did not consider Jerusalem as a difficult problem. He did not recommend the PLO to be brought now into talks on Palestinian autonomy, because the talks were not deciding the fate of Palestinians but ending Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

After three transitional years the Palestinians would have a right of veto to decide their own fate.

Schmidt pledge to see crisis through

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 11

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, made it clear he intended to stay at his post today as the Social Democratic Party (SPD) assembled to seek a way out of its deep internal crisis.

The gravity of the crisis, in the eyes at least of some leaders, was underlined by Herr Heinz Kühn, a former deputy chairman. He gave warning in an interview that if the party could not stop the rot "its fall from power will be unavoidable".

Despite their internal differences, however, SPD leaders appear determined to overcome the growing dissent and dissatisfaction which has been threatening the viability of the SPD-Free Democratic coalition.

Herr Willy Brandt, the SPD chairman, tonight presented the party's executive with a five-point programme calling for solidarity.

The nine-page document also called on the party to remain true to the coalition with the Free Democrats and to its responsibilities as the senior governing party.

The meeting had been called by Herr Brandt to try and heal the growing rift within the SPD. Herr Schmidt told journalists before the meeting began that he doubted whether the internal tensions could be dissolved quickly. But he denied suggestions that the troubles were damaging the ruling coalition or compromising the ability of the SPD to govern.

Much of the crisis revolves around left-wing dissent over some of the Chancellor's policies.

Basque mood turns against terrorists

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 11

Big demonstrations against ETA terrorism in the Basque region's three main cities on Monday have evidently convinced the Basque autonomous Government that the tide has turned in popular feeling against the terrorist organization.

The demonstrations have also provoked one wing of that organization, ETA-Pol-Militar, to issue a public condemnation of the methods and strategy adopted by the other wing, ETA-Militar.

Señor Carlos Garaikoechea, the Chief Minister of the autonomous Government, today read out a statement calling on the Basques to adopt a "decisive attitude" that would isolate

and end the scourge of terrorism and violence.

It was the first time the Government, formed by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) which won last year's regional election, had called so unanimously on the Basques to cease any complicity with or tolerance of the terrorists and their supporters.

The demonstrations in Vitoria, Bilbao and San Sebastián, were in protest against the murder of the chief engineer of a nuclear power station being built near Bilbao, by ETA-Militar men eight days after they had kidnapped him.

Basque newspapers today published the ETA-Pol-Militar statement. The killing of the chief engineer, the statement said, was a "concrete example of the incapacity to advance in the

solution of Basque needs" by the ETA-Militar.

As the "Basque needs" the statement named an amnesty for about 300 Basque terrorists or suspects detained in Spanish prisons; and the complete transfer of power to the region from Madrid.

ETA-Pol-Militar, the less anarchical of the two wings of the organization, also accused the rival group of having turned into a solely military body "which has no capacity to find political solutions to Basque problems".

The Basque government statement also condemned those pro-ETA elements which attacked and stoned Monday's President Jesus Leizaola, the 84-year-old legendary Basque leader.

Protest over restrictions on Royal funeral

From Our Own Correspondent
Athens, Feb 11

Former King Constantine of the Hellenes protested tonight against restrictions on popular participation in the funeral of his mother, former Queen Frederika, which is to be held tomorrow at Thessaloniki.

The Greek Government, which has been criticised for allowing the former Queen to be buried in Greece, had put two conditions to the family: The funeral should be a private affair with only family and close friends; the royal family should spend only a few hours in Greece tomorrow, for the funeral.

French Communists play on racial prejudice

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 11

The French Communist Party is threatened with the prospect of achieving its lowest score since 1945 in the presidential elections, as a result of the zigzag course struck by the leadership, and the growing inability of both rank and file and intellectuals to understand its violent anti-Socialist attitude.

It has therefore decided to beat every popular drum, to play on every popular passion and prejudice, in an effort to restore its popular image.

Before Christmas, with the "positive raid" on a hotel for Moroccan workers, at Vitry, east of Paris, it played on the strong anti-immigrant feeling

among French workers. The Communist municipality of La Seyne-sur-Mer, near Marseilles, called in the police recently to evacuate a gypsy encampment.

The council of Nanterre and Saint Denis recently refused to make homes available for workers from the French overseas territories. And the Communist councillors of Ivry, another town in the Paris "red belt", decided that the number of foreign children in its holiday camp should not exceed 15 per cent.

The latest exploit of a Communist municipality was the "spontaneous" demonstration "to expel drugs" staged on Sunday morning outside the home of a Moroccan worker, Mr Muhammad Karbouh, married with eight children. He

was suspected on the strength of an anonymous letter to the Communist Mayor of Montigny-Cormelles, M. Robert Hue, of being a drug pedlar.

About 50 Communist activists, complete with banners and megaphone and led by the Mayor wearing his tricolour ash, demonstrated outside the home of the Karbouhs, in a high rise building of the "Cité d'Espérance" of the town, while the victims of this new-style pogrom watched fear-stricken and uncomprehending from behind their curtained windows.

Mr Karbouh is a hard working man, who does not go to the café, his wife told reporters. He has been in France eight years, and is highly regarded by his employers. No offence or misdemeanour has

ever been held against him, the police confirmed.

"How far will the Communist Party go?" the CFDT trade union organization, close to the Socialist Party, asked in a statement. "It is setting up a policy based on electoralism and designed to appeal to the racist sentiments of part of the population."

M André Petit, a Giscardian deputy for the Val d'Oise, where Montigny is located, declared that it was scandalous. "A few years ago, the Communist Party did everything to win the support of foreign workers. All of a sudden, it has turned xenophobic. For the presidential campaign, it is capable of every change of front."

Leading article, page 13

PROPERTY

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مكتبة الأصيل

OVERSEAS

Iran President attacks communist drive to 'establish tyranny'

From Tony Alloway
Tehran, Feb 11

President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of Iran today accused pro-Soviet communists of co-opting the country's ruling Muslim fundamentalists to "establish tyranny" in the country.

In a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the revolution in Iran he told a crowd of hundreds of thousands: "In our Islamic Republic the people's prestige must not be played with in a Stalinist manner and our nation must resist such action."

Mr Bani-Sadr also condemned pro-Soviet elements and launched a surprisingly strong attack on the clergy for excessive interference in government affairs.

In addition, a ceremony in which the student militants who took the American hostages were to have handed over the captured United States Embassy for use by the wounded of the war and revolution, was called off by the last minute by Ayatollah Khomeini said it was "inadvisable".

The large crowds that gathered at Freedom Square in the west of the city to hear the President's speech listened in a festive and peaceful atmosphere while the unexpected message of Ayatollah Khomeini was read by his son, Hajatollah Ahmad Khomeini.

"This is a serious warning to those clergymen serving in courts, and other organizations that they should under no circumstances interfere in areas outside their competence," the ayatollah's message said. Besides the courts he singled out revolutionary committees largely responsible for internal security, and a body established in help to give the poor basic living facilities.

He said: "Interference in executive affairs of the country, giving people positions, taking their positions away and so on will result in disorder in the affairs of the country and must be avoided."

The ayatollah said there were many instances of such interference and warned the clergy that they were being misled into such actions by "devils" to lower their esteem and damage Islam.

The ayatollah's statements appeared in lend support to the President. The bodies the ayatollah specifically complained of are controlled by

the President's fundamentalist

opponents. Describing the revolution as "this great miracle of the century" and pleading once more for national unity, he said that the United States was now "trying to intensify domestic disputes". But he was even more explicit in attacking "the dangers of international communism".

The ayatollah said: "The danger of communism is not less than that of Western capitalism. The people must be alert for their plots."

Political observers said the ayatollah's message may well have resulted from his talks with the President two days ago, in which the serious problems facing the country were discussed. If so it would support the belief of some observers that the ayatollah is once again shifting the power balance in favour of the President, although still far from giving him his outright support.

Among the matters most probably discussed in Monday's meeting was the strongly pressing by the President in his speech today, the growing concern over the infiltration of the pro-Moscow communist Tudeh Party into the ruling apparatus.

Today the President said: "The Soviet Union's agents... are now trying, by cooperation with the group which has control of the country, to establish tyranny."

We have known you, too leaders of the Tudeh Party, very well for about 30 years. We know you have freedom... We know you are great liars. Exhorting the people to democracy, full rights under the constitution the President declared: "I am ready to die in order to keep the freedom and independence of the country."

The President said the country's "third stage" of the revolution when the one group that had seized power—a reference to the clergy-backed Islamic Republican Party—established a dictatorship.

"Our people have no judicial rights. They are being oppressed by a group of people with knives and clubs attacking gatherings, student dormitories, forcing schools to close illegally and assassinating our people all over the country."

The President, widely cheered throughout his speech, drew great applause at the end when he repeated three times: "Censorship must be eliminated. Laws must be executed."



Lindbergh claim: Mr Kenneth Kerwin, left, listens intently while his lawyer, Mr Robert Bryan, displays photographs at a press conference in Flemington, New Jersey, of the baby son of Charles Lindbergh, the aviation pioneer, who made the first solo flight across the Atlantic. The child was kidnapped in 1932 and was thought to have been killed.

Solidarity accused of 'power plot'

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 11

The Russians today poured scorn on American State Department comments that the Reagan Administration would not grant credits to Poland and was looking instead for economic reform in the country.

A Tass commentary—apparently written before the State Department reversed its position on granting aid to Poland—said the United States was trying to impose economic pressure on sovereign states for selfish policy aims. Tass said that the State Department spokesman had made a "kind of ultimatum" that unless the Poles carried out an economic reform, they could not expect any American credits.

The reformers the Americans wanted, according to the news agency, was the abandonment of communism, which a recent conference in Washington had called an "unnatural and alien system" for Eastern Europe.

But Tass asserted that the Polish people had rejected capitalism "once and for all" and the country was and would remain communist.

A Soviet newspaper, in a long and spicy account of the chaos and intrigue its special reporter said he found in Poland, asserted that plotters, disguised as trade union leaders, were making a bid for political power.

The influential weekly paper *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, while describing their union as apolitical, had really launched a fierce political struggle "masked by the pseudoeconomic camouflage of strikes".

The paper said that the "unbridled extremism" of some of the leaders was inspired by the "semi-legal" organization KOR (the dissident Social Self-defence Committee). It described Mr Jacek Kuron, one of KOR's leaders, as a "mouthpiece of anti-socialist forces" who for 20 years had been operating on anti-socialist lines, not working but living comfortably in Warsaw on dollars and Deutschmarks secretly sent to him.

The paper said that KOR agents began to infiltrate the Gdansk docks in 1976, playing on the authorities' economic

way to dispel any such notion, and made a point of thanking the Soviet Union for its help, understanding, and particularly for its confidence in the ability of Poles to settle their difficulties alone.

He assured Moscow once again that Poland is, and would remain, socialist and of the party's determination to act firmly, and decisively against political adversaries who were trying to divert the country from its socialist course.

It is against such dramatic speaking that the Polish Roman Catholic Church has once again come out to support the authorities with a call for wisdom and restraint.

The Polish Roman Catholic bishops, who met yesterday, called on the nation to refrain from all action that might precipitate new tension, to avoid reacting in haste.

The bishops also warned the authorities that "nothing can be achieved by diktat" that social contracts of last autumn must be implemented.

Pope John Paul II's visit today called on all sides in Poland's labour dispute to display calmness, maturity and a sense of responsibility.—Reuters.

Crisis report: The report "The Polish Crisis: Western Economic Policy Options" by Professor Richard Porter, referred to on page 5 of *The Times* on Tuesday, is published by The Royal Institute of International Affairs, price £3.50.

Diary, page 14

Toll rises as fighting continues in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Feb 11

Fighting between soldiers in three Zimbabwe national army battalions has claimed at least 19 lives in the past five days and is still out of control in one area, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, told Parliament tonight.

Mr Mugabe said that the situation was serious, "not in the sense of a war going on but that there have been a series of incidents of death and wounding in at least three parts of the country".

The fighting broke out at Ntshinduna barracks, near Bulawayo, on Saturday and spread on Monday night to Connemara barracks, near Gwelo.

Heavy fire restarted late tonight in the area of Glenville barracks, with reports of tracer fire illuminating the sky.

The Prime Minister told the House of Assembly that Ntshinduna was quiet and that soldiers were being disarmed. Five men had died in the weekend fighting which started after a dispute at a beerhall.

But at Connemara barracks, on the main Bulawayo-Salisbury road, members of the joint high command, including the leaders of the former Zipra and Zanu battalions, were engaged in clashes, had been unable to quell the fighting, he added.

Members of the joint high command had entered the area but repeated efforts had not succeeded in convincing soldiers "still warring in the bush to return to their camp".

Patrols have been mounted to deal with the lawless elements," Mr Mugabe said. There were reports tonight that large military forces were building up at Que Que and Gwelo, two towns on either side of Connemara which has been cut off by roadblocks since yesterday.

Mr Mugabe said that five people were known to have died at Connemara but that figures were still unclear and the toll might rise.

The most recent fighting was at Glenville barracks in Bulawayo last night where Mr Mugabe said that 10 people had died. However, military sources said today that the bodies of 11 men, all thought to be soldiers, had been taken to the mortuary at Mpilo hospital in Bulawayo.

Although Mr Mugabe specifically avoided naming Zipra or Zanu elements as being responsible, it seems clear that soldiers formerly belonging to Zipra, the military wing of Mr Joshua Nkomo's party, broke into the armoury at Connemara and attacked former members of Zanu.

The next few days are likely to prove crucial to the nation. The factional violence has involved three of the nine battalions formed in the integration process last year, including one of the most senior.

Ottawa seeks source of diplomatic 'leak'

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 11

Investigations are under way to find who leaked the text of a confidential cable from the Canadian High Commissioner in London to Ottawa on the subject of the controversial plan to patriate the Canadian constitution.

The path of Mr Pierre Trudeau's constitutional reform plan has been strewn with leaked documents almost from the beginning.

The latest episode occurred yesterday when CBC television made public a secret diplomatic cable sent by Mrs Jean Wadd, the Canadian High Commissioner in London, to the External Affairs Department here.

In it Mrs Wadd expressed fear that telephone conversations between the High Commissioner and Ottawa, dealing with Canadian Government strategy for patriating the British North America Act, were being bugged.

We must take it for granted that phone conversations are all monitored and taped by suitably-equipped countries including Britain, France, the United States of America and the Soviet Union," the High Commissioner said.

"Why give Britain notice of our strategy concerns or judgments of some of its key players? Why give others an opportunity for mischief?" Classified telex messages were "immeasurably safer".

An External Affairs Department spokesman asked today whether an investigation is being conducted into the leakage.

replied: "I expect it is being done."

He could not say who was involved in the investigation, but indicated that it covers Government departments in which External Affairs cables are copied, as well as the External Affairs Department itself.

The most celebrated leakage occurred last September, in the midst of a crucial federal-provincial conference of first ministers. It was a 64-page document marked "ministers' eyes only" which gave details of the federal strategy for bringing home the constitution with or without provincial consent.

It made clear that the Federal Government was prepared to treat the constitutional talks then under way "more like a street fight than a diplomatic negotiation," and assessed the chances of a federal-provincial agreement as "not very high".

Meanwhile, it appears almost certain that there will be a provincial election in Quebec in April.

Mr René Lévesque, the Parti Québécois Premier, has called a special cabinet meeting for tomorrow and Friday at which the timing of the election will be discussed.

The Parti Québécois, which advocates Quebec's independence from Canada, swept into office in November, 1976. Time is thus running out on its five-year mandate; already Mr Lévesque has carried on much longer than the normal four years.

The election dates most frequently mentioned in speculation are April 6, 7, 13 and 27.

Britain recalls its High Commissioner in Canada

By Our Foreign Staff

Sir John Ford, the British High Commissioner in Canada, has been recalled to London for "consultations" over the Canadian constitutional dispute which yesterday saw the announcement of Sir John's retirement, and the leakage of Canadian diplomatic cables from London to Ottawa.

Sir John is back in London to brief Lord Carrington and officials on the constitutional situation," the Foreign Office confirmed last night. Debate on the issue resumes next week in the Canadian Parliament.

There was an inquest at the Canadian High Commissioner in London yesterday over the leaked cables, in which Mrs Jean Wadd, the High Commissioner, said Britain was probably tapping Canadian communications on constitutional strategy. Although the cables were sent under Mrs Wadd's authority it was strongly implied that Mrs Wadd was not the author.

A source at the High Commissioner said they are "reasonably certain" that the cable was not leaked from London. It is thought in Ottawa that one or more civil servants have been responsible for the leaks.

The present strains arise from uncertainty over whether Westminster will endorse future legislation amending the Canadian constitution and establishing a Bill of Rights before relinquishing to Canada all legal control of these instruments.

The High Commissioner sources in London thought it unlikely that Mrs Wadd's effectiveness in dealing with the British Government would be impaired by the leaked cables.

The cables welcomed the retirement to the backbenches of Mr Norman St John Stevas, who had raised objections to the Trudeau package, and urged a propaganda "snow job" on Mr Jonathan Aitken, Tory MP for Thanet, also an opponent.

Disruption predicted: If, within a month, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, submits a request for the patriation of the British North America Act, the Government is still determined to do its utmost to have the British parliament accede to a request from the Canadian Federal Government (Our Political Editor writes).

However, challenge and disruption is predicted in both the Commons and the Lords.

Diary, page 14

Angry denial by son of Mr Reagan

President Reagan's eldest son

Michael, aged 35, who is under investigation for allegedly diverting \$17,500 (£7,480) invested in a gasahol project to his own personal use, has angrily denied any wrongdoing, and claimed that the Los Angeles district attorney's office "is out to get me because of my famous last name".

Speaking at his home in the suburbs of Los Angeles, he said: "If my name wasn't Reagan none of this would have happened. I've done nothing wrong but it seems since Watergate somebody is always trying to find something. First, you had Billy Carter and now all of a sudden I'm in the papers."

The Los Angeles district attorney today denied his office had singled Mr Reagan out because he was the son of the President, and said the security of his activities was a valid investigation.

On Monday it was disclosed that the district attorney and the State Department of Corporations were investigating Mr Reagan and his lawyer for possible violations of corporate laws.

Investigators said the Reagan inquiry began as an investigation into his involvement with a Los Angeles business promoter, against whom several people had complained.

Washington ready to help Poles

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 11

After a day of confusion about the intensification of economic aid for Poland, the Administration here has made it clear that it wants to help Warsaw to overcome its difficulties.

At the same time, it is loath to pour good money after bad if the authorities in Warsaw are not up to the task of introducing reforms to put the economy back on the tracks.

Most important of all, it wants to do all it can to prevent a Soviet invasion of Poland without being seen to interfere.

The confusion arose yesterday when a State Department spokesman said that the Administration was still looking at the Polish situation and "it is our feeling that what is needed most of all in Poland is internal economic reform."

An important point which remained untouched by all of yesterday's confusion was the determination of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, to play down press speculation here that he now believed a Soviet invasion of Poland was a foregone conclusion.

The State Department spokesman, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Secretary of State, said that the Administration regarded Soviet military intervention as "neither inevitable nor justifiable".

Warsaw thanks Moscow for its help in crisis

Continued from page 1

He said that General Jaruzelski had a taste of battle in the front line during the Second World War and that all his life he had shown himself to be a Polish patriot.

The psychological effect of the central committee's decision to bring General Jaruzelski more directly into politics is already noticeable. The general, who does not usually appear in Parliament in his uniform, did so today resplendent with all his decorations.

Mr Kania made it clear that whereas the outgoing Government of Mr Jozef Pankowski carried its burdens well, the new stage in which the country was heading towards "catastrophe" weakened by political strikes and "grave danger", needed another personality.

It needed a leader of government capable of being lenient when necessary, but acting firmly in the face of pressure and blackmail and especially in the face of "political challenge coming from the adversaries of socialism".

A recent upsurge of alarmist reports about the Polish situation which appeared daily in the Soviet and Soviet-bloc press, clearly suggested that Moscow was losing confidence in the ability of the Polish Government to halt the dangerous trend.

But Mr Kania went out of his way to dispel any such notion, and made a point of thanking the Soviet Union for its help, understanding, and particularly for its confidence in the ability of Poles to settle their difficulties alone.

Diary, page 14

Mrs Thatcher to visit the Gulf

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to visit Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Emirates between April 19 and 24, the first such visit by a serving Prime Minister.

She will make the visits on the way home from her visit to India from April 15 and 19, it was announced from Number 10 Downing Street yesterday.

Israelis speed up seizures of land

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 11

Since the beginning of this year, Israeli military authorities have expropriated more than 5,500 acres of land in the occupied West Bank in an apparent attempt to maximize the territory under Jewish control before the general election of June 30.

Much of the expropriated land is to be used to create new Jewish settlements or to expand those already established. Last week 1,500 acres were confiscated near the large Arab town of Nablus in order to provide an industrial sector for the isolated settlement of Ariel.

Other areas where land has been expropriated in recent weeks include the Arab town of Tubas, near Nablus, where 1,000 acres were informed to be taken, and the Hebron district where nearly 2,000 acres were seized from nine different villages.

In addition the military government has recently published planning orders barring Arabs from building in the vicinity of all main roads in the West Bank as well as around army camps and some settlements.

Jewish settlers in Kiryat Atza and Gush Etzion, both south of Jerusalem, have been encouraged to "realize ownership" of land allocated to them by planting trees and erecting fences.

In almost every case of recent land seizure the military government has declared the area in question to be "state land" and given local Palestinians 21 days to produce the necessary deeds to prove otherwise. If the deeds are not forthcoming the military government then assumes the title as the acting sovereign power.

This week a letter protesting at the Israeli policy is to be circulated to all 120 members of the Knesset by Mr Elias Khoury, a prominent east Jerusalem lawyer who is planning to launch appeals in the Supreme Court against seven different cases of land seizure. He is acting on behalf of more than 200 West Bank families.

"The Israeli moves amount to the biggest land seizure operation since the West Bank was occupied in 1967," Mr Khoury said today.

Mr Khoury, who successfully challenged the legality of the Eilat Moreh settlement in 1979, claimed that the Israelis were now taking over land which had often been cultivated by Arabs for many years but which in most cases had never been properly surveyed.

"Often deeds to these lands just do not exist and it is impossible to organize and finance a survey in the 21 days allowed," he said. "In many instances the Jews are being given control of land formerly

used by Arabs to grow crops, graze animals or expand their villages."

Mr Khoury claimed that the tactic of seizing so-called "state land" was being used to circumvent the decision taken by the Government and later reinforced by the court ruling in the Eilat Moreh case, not to seize private Arab land for Jewish settlements.

"The Israelis are now trying to create facts so that if the Labour Party takes power it will not be able to change them again," Mr Khoury said. "In the process they are exploiting poor Arabs who are often ignorant of their rights."

Many Palestinians believe that a recent statement by President Reagan declaring that the West Bank settlements were not illegal has encouraged land seizure.

But advance warning of the policy now being adopted by the Israeli authorities was given in a Hebrew document published last September by Mr Mattityahu Drobles, chairman of the settlement division of the World Zionist organization.

"In light of the current negotiations on the future of Judea and Samaria, it will now become necessary for us to conduct a race against time," Mr Drobles wrote then.

"During this period everything will be mainly determined by the facts we establish in these territories and less by any other considerations."

US not to press neutron bomb on Nato allies

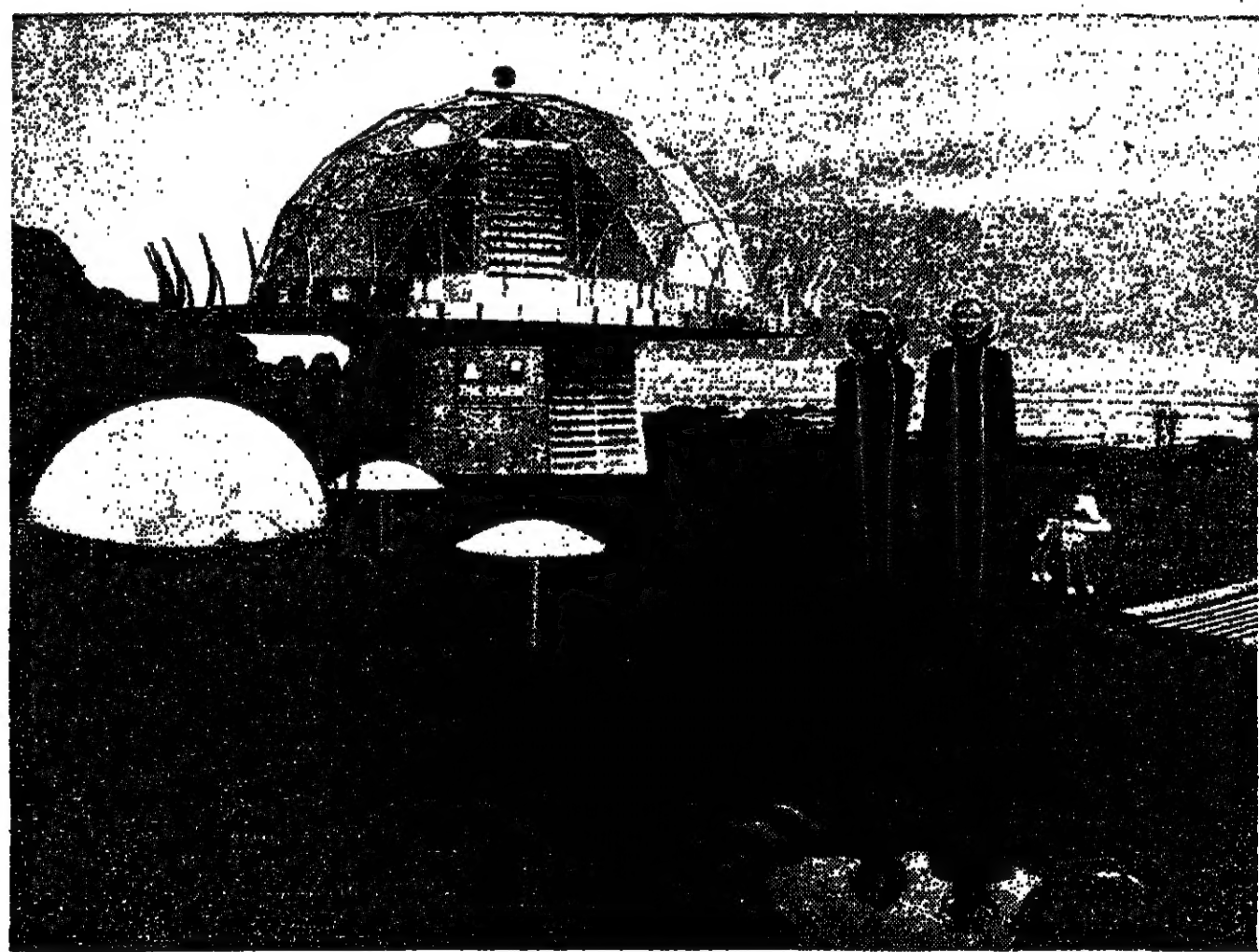
From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 11

Reaffirming his personal support for the neutron bomb, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the new Secretary of Defence, said today that the controversial weapon could do "quite a lot" to restore an East-West balance of force in Central Europe.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, he insisted, however, that the weapon, which he called by its technical title "the enhanced radiation warhead", would not be forced on America's Nato allies. "It's not that we are going to say, 'All right, it's here. You've got to take it or leave it,'" he said.

Mr Weinberger, who emphasized that he was speaking for himself, not for the whole of the new Reagan Administration, pointed out that the American Government had made a policy judgment some time ago that the neutron bomb was "a helpful addition to the strength of the theatre nuclear forces" in Europe.

If deterrence should fail and Soviet tanks moved into West Europe, the enhanced radiation produced by the neutron warheads would pierce the armour of the enemy tanks and kill their crews without contaminating the surrounding ground to the point where it could not be used by allied troops, he said. "I think it's a very good addition."



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OVERSEAS

Ugandan opposition leader held over army depot attacks

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, Feb 11

Armed soldiers have arrested Mr. Edmond Sali, aged 43, a Kampala businessman and secretary-general of the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM), after the wave of attacks on police stations and army depots earlier this week.

Security forces are understood also to be searching for Mr. Yoweri Museveni, the UPM president, who was vice-chairman of the military commission which was in power in Uganda until the December elections. All but one of the UPM candidates were defeated in the elections.

An unknown, and so far anonymous, underground group, the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Uganda government leaders appear to think that the UPM was involved.

Kampala was quieter today, after two days and nights of gunfire, but intensive searches are going on for the organizers

of the attacks, in which arms were stolen and in which a policeman and army officer were killed.

Some of the 10,000 Tanzanian troops, who have remained in Uganda since driving out former President Idi Amin in 1979, have been redeployed to support the Ugandan forces. President Nyerere of Tanzania said this week that his troops are due to be withdrawn in June, but they may stay longer if Uganda requests this.

A UFM spokesman, today claimed responsibility for the attacks. "The UFM is now spearheading the revolution, reverberating throughout Uganda," he said. "We are making steady progress. We already control the western region of Uganda."

The spokesman refused to be identified and also refused to name leaders of the UFM. He also denied that either Mr. Edmond Sali or Mr. Museveni were involved with the UFM.



Hotel guests, cut off by the fire at the Las Vegas Hilton, shouting to firemen for help. Eight people died in the blaze.

Christian revival approved by Peking

From Richard Hughes Hongkong, Feb 11

Non-denominational Christianity is being revived in China by the Peking-approved Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

The Rev. Shen Derong, the movement's secretary-general, told Dr. Andrew Chiu, a Hongkong Lutheran missionary, that 100,000 Chinese copies of the New Testament were distributed in China in October and the entire Bible has been available in the country since Christmas Day.

Hymn books in Chinese are being distributed to Christians in Shanghai, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces. At the third China national Christian conference it was decided to begin the training of new clergy.

The Rev. Shen Derong, originally a Presbyterian pastor, told Dr. Chiu, who visited China recently, that the China Church was not anti-foreign and was indeed eager to open friendly relations and fellowship with all Christian churches abroad.

"We would gratefully accept invitations from any overseas churches to send delegates abroad," he said. But there will be no acceptance of smuggled Bibles or other religious items which disregard the authority of the China Church and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

The Christian magazine, *Tian Feng* has resumed publication after having been suspended since the Cultural Revolution. It publishes devotional notes and lectures, traditional hymns and news of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement to all Christian communities in China.

Chinese call to halt car imports

From David Bonavia Peking, Feb 11

The Chinese Communist Party has called for a halt to imports of cars, television sets and other electronic luxury goods, most of which are bought from Japan.

The article on the front page of the *People's Daily* was timed to coincide with the beginning of talks with a high-level Japanese Government and business delegation which is seeking to salvage some orders from the recent large-scale cutback on China's imports.

Japan has been hardest hit by the Chinese leadership's decision to suspend most heavy industrial construction projects, especially those with imported plant, which was disclosed last December.

"Reckless importing not only wastes our foreign currency reserves, but also inevitably damages our domestic motor industry," the party organ said in an unusually forthright statement. It also claimed that China's television industry was

being hit by imports of Japanese sets, which have grown rapidly over the past year.

China makes only two types of car—the luxury Red Flag limousine for political leaders, and an old-fashioned saloon with the brand-name Shanghai. Jeeps, lorries and other vehicles are also produced domestically, but the call for a halt to imports seems specifically aimed at passenger cars.

The amount of imports is modest. Since 1949 some 300,000 cars have been imported from various countries, according to incomplete statistics.

By far the biggest exporter is Toyota, which gained a foothold in the Chinese market in the early 1970s with the sale of an entire taxi fleet for Peking and a knock-down price. Since then, Toyota has set up a special service station here, and the makes has become particularly popular among foreign residents.

None the less, China remains only a minor market for cars imported from anywhere.

Japanese minibuses have been

brought into China in significant numbers in recent years, and to acquire one is a status symbol for any large industrial enterprise or government department.

The timing of the call for a freeze on imports of cars and consumer electronics is obviously intended to warn the Japanese delegation that they have hard bargaining ahead. Discussions are expected to centre on China's cancellation of orders for Japanese plant, especially in the steel industry.

The Chinese Government is understood to be angry that Japanese steelmakers consented to build a huge plant at Baoshan, near Shanghai, when they knew that the land was marshy and in other ways unsuitable. Much of the project has had to be scrapped.

The present import cutback affects suppliers throughout the developed world, however, not just Japan. The party leadership has decided that its economic planning is going awry and must be re-examined over the next four years.

World View by Arrigo Levi

West stands firm to prevent cold war

Three Western leaders have recently offered their thoughts on the future of East-West relations and world peace. President Reagan in his first news conference and in his talk with American editors; President Giscard d'Estaing in his ample *entretien* with Herr Helmut Schmidt in his Bundestag speech; and the French President and West German Chancellor again in their Paris communiqué, have told what, in their view, should come "after détente".

Sharing a wish to prevent a new cold war, the three leaders have told what the conditions are for improved détente, although the word "détente" is out of favour and new labels are suggested.

Comparisons are hateful, but I shall award first prize to this leader's competition to President Giscard d'Estaing for an extraordinary performance covering the whole picture of international relations, while second place ought to go to Herr Schmidt.

President Reagan's views and world philosophy seem to be much less elaborate, while other European leaders, who have kept silent, cannot compare with President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt, who have once more taken the leadership of Europe. In any case, their Paris communiqué represents the European majority view.

What is more important is that President Reagan's occasionally rough thoughts and the two European statesmen's refined analyses appear to be much nearer than might have seemed possible.

President Reagan starts from a somewhat simplified view of past détente: "a one-way street for the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own aims." We know that Europeans attribute a more positive value to the détente process, which, in their view, has brought in the force and the present political crises of the Soviet system.

But it now turns out that President Giscard d'Estaing's reservations about old détente are quite similar to President Reagan's. What détente meant, according to the French President, was peaceful coexistence between East and West: "living together without making war", but also a change in the position of influence in the world, which has largely taken place in favour of the Soviet Union.

The two Presidents are equally determined to put an end to such one-sided détente.

President Reagan formulates this aim by reaffirming the concept of "linkage". "You

Law Report February 11 1981

Exclusive Brethren trust a charity

Holmes and Others v. Attorney General

Before Mr Justice Walton

The purpose of the trust known as the Kingston Meeting Rooms Trust (Fiduciary) for the benefit of the Brethren known as "The Brethren" formerly the Plymouth Brethren are charitable.

His Lordship so held in making a declaration sought by Mr Robert Edward Holmes, of Chesham, Surrey, and others that the trust was a valid charitable trust. The trustees were appealing against the decision of the Charity Commissioners that the trust should be removed from the Central Register of Charities.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, Mr Francis Ferris, QC, and Mr Patrick Albutt, for the trustees; Sir Ian Pervin, QC, Solicitor General, and Mr John Munnery for the Attorney General.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the question was whether the purposes of the trust were charitable. It had been established by a trust deed dated August 31, 1978, and the purposes included the acquisition of property for use as a meeting room. The deed had been presented to the Charity Commissioners for registration under the Charities Act, 1960, and had in fact been registered. It had then been taken off the register as the original trustees could not be found. The trustees were said to have been a mistake. The trustees therefore appealed to the court.

The Brethren claimed to be a fundamentalist group of Christians. The group was founded at the beginning of the nineteenth century at a time when the churches of England and Ireland were spiritually in a very bad way. The Brethren were apparently always been that members should separate themselves from the world. Thus, the group was not to be involved in any business, but not in any type of business that regarded as improper, they would not join in a partnership with non-Brethren, they would not watch television or go to the cinema, nor even, apparently, listen to the radio. Other words they were an ultra puritan sect. As happened with such sects there were schisms from time to time, each side thinking it had the

Turkish army arrests 53 in swoop on left

Ankara, Feb 11.—Turkish security forces announced today that they had arrested 53 people after the discovery of an outlawed left-wing organization in Adiyaman province in South-East Turkey.

A military announcement said 22 of the group were accused of being members of the outlawed organization while 31 others were held as accomplices.

The 22 were being charged with the murder of seven people, injuring another two, and responsibility for a number of bombings, robberies and arson, the military authorities said.—UPI.

Maltese MPs told of huge backlog in higher courts

From Our Correspondent Valletta, Feb 11

The House of Representatives last night started debating a second reading of a controversial Bill which Mr Don Miniotto's Labour Government has tabled to limit legal proceedings against the Government.

Dr Joseph Brincat, the Minister of Justice, who opened the debate said that litigation involving the Government had grown enormously so that there was a backlog of 6,000 cases in superior courts alone. The Government was not to court on every minor issue and this had to stop, he said.

He added that the Government had already provided machinery for complaints to be dealt with by various commissions and bodies such as those dealing with complaints about Government housing and employment.

This machinery would be extended to other departments such as customs.

Dr Brincat said the commission being set up to supervise court procedure and lawyers' behaviour could be compared to "the system of lay observers" existing in other countries.

He added that administrative discretion should not be subject to judicial review, except in cases where the government's policy was being challenged.

The section which stated that there could be no judicial proceeding filed against the Government before 10 days

South Koreans cast votes for electoral college

From Jacqueline Rediff Seoul, Feb 11

South Koreans went to the polls today to vote for an electoral college of 527 members in the first stage of the presidential election. In two weeks' time the electoral college will choose the new President.

There was a notable absence of election fever or excitement, as most people here consider a victory for President Chun Doo Hwan and his Democratic Justice Party a foregone conclusion.

"I think President Chun will win for sure," the script was written on the wall of the quiet, man said today, reflecting the general opinion.

President Chun, former army strong man, has recently declared that in spite of earlier assertions to the contrary, he has no intention of seeking re-election and the leadership and presidential candidacy of the DJP. Nearly half the total number of candidates for the electoral college have been put up by the DJP which expects to win at least 75 per cent of today's vote.

In addition to the 4,610 DJP candidates there are more than 3,000 independents, but as many of these also support President Chun they represent no threat to his inevitable victory.

What is more important, the party, the Democratic Party, the party, the Democratic Party has about 1,300 candidates while the other two parties that have put up presidential candidates, the Civil Rights Party and the Korean National Party have only about 100 candidates each.

Commonwealth campaign against hunger urged

Dacca, Feb 11.—President Zia ur-Rahman of Bangladesh today opened a three-day meeting of Commonwealth ministers of agriculture, food and rural development by appealing to the Commonwealth to chart out a cooperative programme for eliminating poverty and hunger.

The task before us may seem to be of staggering magnitude, but given the political will and commitment, we should be able to transform together the agrarian structure of the developing countries within the Commonwealth," he said.

More than 100 delegates from 20 of the 44 Commonwealth countries are attending the conference.

President Zia suggested that

the Commonwealth could establish special incentives to encourage countries to increase farm production and rural development by appealing to the Commonwealth to chart out a cooperative programme for eliminating poverty and hunger.

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President Zia suggested that

Britain and the Third World: Irrigation schemes make the bush veldt bloom

A crucial role in Swaziland's sugar industry

This is the third of four articles examining the work of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

From Nicholas Ashford Mhlume, Swaziland, Feb 11

Mr Hugh Maziya stuck his hands in his pockets and proudly surveyed the fields of sugarcane, its spiky green foliage waved gently in the breeze, which surrounds his house.

Just over a decade ago Mr Maziya was an impoverished teacher in southern Swaziland. Then one day he applied for a plot of land on an irrigated smallholder settlement scheme at Vuvulane, situated in the northern Lowveld not far from the Mozambique border.

Since then he has not looked back. In addition to his sugarcane, which is processed by the local Mhlume Sugar Company mill, he is also producing a couple of acres of cotton as well as oranges, mangoes and vegetables for his own consumption.

"I am 10 times better off than when I was a teacher," he boasted and he pointed to two cars (admittedly neither of them in prime condition) parked outside his house. With a take-home income of around £3,000 a year, he is now one of Swaziland's wealthier citizens.

Mr Maziya is one of 263 farmers at Vuvulane, the country's most ambitious smallholder development scheme. They hold

20-year leases on irrigated plots ranging in size from eight to 16 acres.

An organization called Vuvulane Irrigated Farms assists the farmers with expertise in harvesting, hiring of tractors, bank loans and almost anything else needed to make the farms work.

The project was created by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), which has had unique experience in developing smallholder schemes in Third World countries. The Corporation saw the need to establish smallholder skills in a country where most of the 500,000 inhabitants are subsistence farmers.

Vuvulane is situated along one of the biggest CDC projects in Swaziland. One is the Mhlume sugar mill, the largest in the country with an output last year of almost 132,000 tons, and the other is the Swaziland Irrigation Scheme, which produces sugar cane, citrus and cattle.

Sugar is central to the Swazi economy. Last year it contributed 37 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

By 1982 about 30,000 people will live directly or indirectly off sugar production. Since the CDC started operating in Swaziland in 1948, it has played a formative and often crucial role in the development of the sugar industry.

It began with the irrigation scheme, which is situated on

'Penalized' by refusal of parking space

Carlson v Post Office

Before Mr Justice Slynn and Mrs D. Lancaster

An employee who was refused a permit for a parking space because he was a member of an independent trade union not recognized by the Post Office was "penalized" within the meaning of section 23 of the Industrial Relations (Consolidation) Act, 1978.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr John Carlson, from a decision of a Cardiff industrial tribunal that his employer, the Post Office, had not taken action against him for his membership of a union not recognized by the Post Office, contrary to section 23 of the Act.

Section 23 provides: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, every employee shall have the right not to have action (short of dismissal) taken against him as an individual by his employer for the purpose of (a) preventing or deterring him from taking part in the activities of an independent trade union at any appropriate time, or penalizing him for doing so; or (b) compelling him to become a member of a trade union which is not independent."

Mr Jeffrey Burke for Mr Carlson; Mr Christopher Carr for the Post Office.

MR JUSTICE SLYNN said that Mr Carlson's union, the Engineering Officers' Technical Association (EOTA), was not recognized by the Post Office. He was not entitled to a permit to park his car at his workplace, a telephone exchange at Newport. He was told that the allocation of permits was "up to the individual employee."

Mr Carlson alleged that there was discrimination in that he had been told that because EOTA was not recognized by the Post Office, its members were not entitled to consideration for parking permits. The Post Office contended that the allocation of permits was the subject of a local agreement with the Council of Post Office Unions, (only those recognized

by the Post Office) and that the Post Office was unable to help the industrial tribunal find out what was going on. Mr Carlson said he was a member of EOTA, that he was told that he was penalized by the Post Office for his membership of EOTA, and that he was told that he was penalized by the Post Office for his membership of EOTA.

The decision of the industrial tribunal would be set aside if the case amounted to a breach of the Act. It was important to bear in mind that, before a breach was established, what was done had to be shown to be a breach of the Act. It had to be for the purpose of penalizing the employee for his membership of an independent trade union. By virtue of section 23, it was for the purpose of penalizing the employee for his membership of an independent trade union. It was not for the purpose of penalizing the employee for his membership of an independent trade union. It was not for the purpose of penalizing the employee for his membership of an independent trade union.

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UN envoy for Afghan talks

Delhi, Feb 11.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, today named Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, his Under-Secretary, as United Nations representative on Afghanistan in an attempt to facilitate negotiations between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, said later that the United Nations representative would help to iron out differences between the three countries so that settlement talks could begin.

Dr Waldheim's announcement in an address to a foreign

ministers' conference of non-aligned countries in Delhi today was unexpected in view of differences between the three sides.

An insert to his prepared speech naming Senior Perez de Cuellar was handed out to delegates and journalists only moments before he began speaking.

Mr Shahi told a press conference that the United Nations representative would help to iron out differences between the three countries so that settlement talks could begin.

Dr Waldheim's announcement in an address to a foreign

مكتبة الزمان

LAW STUDIES
BAR FINAL REVISION COURSE
(21 Feb-10th April, 1981)
A. Level, Bar, LL.B., Solicitors
D. Level
33 Warren St., W. 1, 377 8150

Buchan for an emergency del
on the closure of the plant

Labour was in the most desperate difficulty of finding its way forward either to moderate, sensible practical policies or way out of the dreamy world in which many of them seemed determined to live their lives.

Mr Kanfman was to have housing action week in which intended to picket the Department of the Environment. This summit of the shadow cabinet was hard returning to the scenes of

Opposition came from German and Irish Christian Democratic members who said abortion was murder and the paragraph was an insult to the dignity of the womanhood of Europe.

Opposition came from German and Irish Christian Democratic members who said abortion was murder and the paragraph was an insult to the dignity of the womanhood of Europe.

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THE ARTS



From left: Sir George Grove, founder and first editor of the Dictionary of Music and Musicians, and his successors, J. A. Fuller Maitland, H. C. Colles and Eric Blom

How the great Grove itself adapts to the new age

"This work," wrote George Grove in 1879 of his *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, "is intended to supply a great and long acknowledged want." Characteristically, he attributed that want to the growing thirst for information arising from "the immense improvement in the general position of music which has taken place since the commencement of the present century." No one in Great Britain had attempted to supply the want so fully before; there had been terminological dictionaries, and some biographical ones. Grove's, published between 1877 and 1889, was the first encyclopaedic music dictionary. It was "designed for the use of professional musicians and amateurs alike," wrote Grove in his preface. He fixed its backward limit at 1450, "the most remote date to which the rise of modern music can be carried back." It was essentially progressive and evolutionary: "mere archaism has been avoided, while the connection between the medieval systems and the wonderful modern art to which they have given rise has been insisted on and brought out."

Grove was in the best sense a populariser. He wanted to make musical knowledge accessible, and saw nothing disgraceful—the contrary, in fact

—in a scholar's communicating with a wide audience. In the dictionary's preface, he wrote: "While the subjects have been treated thoroughly and in a manner not unworthy the attention of the professional musician, the style has been anxiously divested of technicality." In seeking to serve "the general reader as much as... the musician," as his assistant editor and co-editor of the second edition, J. A. Fuller Maitland, later put it, Grove was in no sense dilettantish. While 102 of his 118 contributors were British, he did seek out eminent scholars from abroad, including men of the quality of Philip Spitta and C. F. Pohl (whose *Haydn* entry included much new research, and served through to the fifth edition). He approached editing in a thoroughly professional way. Hubert Parry, another of his assistants, recalled it: "We had some uncommonly dreary and tiresome work to do. If you could have seen the state in which some of the articles were sent in you would wonder how they were ever got into shape. I remember we had not only to recast the details of the language of many of them, but to turn the articles inside out, and upside down, to put the end at the beginning and the middle at the end, and to cut out whole paragraphs of rig-

marole, till we were driven nearly distracted." Fuller Maitland's revision, published in five volumes (1904-10), did much to correct the imbalance that had arisen through the expansion of Grove's plan as the dictionary had progressed. He added corrections and additions, and pushed the date limit of 1450 back to 1000, as scholarly developments of the time dictated. Acoustical topics were now admitted and lists of works more methodically organized. Already, in fact, one sees the beginnings of a new kind of scholarly professionalism. Fuller Maitland believed in stylistic accuracy, and in a sense that Grove, a civil engineer, was not. And while Grove had reservations about admitting anything beyond fact, Fuller Maitland believed in stylistic accuracy, and in a sense that Grove, a civil engineer, was not. And while Grove had reservations about admitting anything beyond fact, Fuller Maitland believed in stylistic accuracy, and in a sense that Grove, a civil engineer, was not.

People once prominent may later turn out to have been of only local or short-term importance, and have to be cut down to their new size or even omitted. All dictionaries simply because of the time dust takes to settle—tend to be heavily weighted in favour of the century or so before their publication, and one like Grove which has many editions will have to prolong a bulge unless there is fairly radical surgery. That, clearly, was evident as early as 1927. Colles was editor; too, of the fourth edition (1940), an updated reprint of the third with a supplementary sixth volume. For more than 25 years now

we have been relying on Eric Blom's fifth edition, published in nine volumes with a later supplement. This, as he said, was the most thoroughgoing revision ever attempted, as indeed it had to be. It has of course been heavily criticized, often unjustly. Its hints of chauvinism are not hard to understand, remembering that it was put together just after World War II. But it made a brave attempt to comprehend much new material of all sorts; as the achievement of a single editor it is remarkable.

By the 1970s, the world of musical scholarship had so expanded that any new Grove had to be the product of a large editorial team. It had, too, to take account of the monumental *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, published in fascicles between 1949 and 1969, which set new academic standards in music lexicography. To revise the fifth edition was never a realistic possibility; too much had happened in musical scholarship, and values had changed too radically. The *New Grove* in fact retains perhaps 3 per cent of the Blom edition.

It had, in the first place, to be more international than its predecessors, in our increasingly small world. A certain favouritism towards British and other English-speaking composers cannot be excluded, nor is it improper to the chief musical reference work of the English-speaking world; but on principle a Romanian or a Uruguayan should find a place in it as readily as an Englishman or an American of equivalent achievement. This objective of consistency has had to be pursued in other ways, for example in the selection of cities on whose musical traditions there should be articles. Madrid and Mexico City, Minneapolis and Moscow belong there as well as Manchester.

Several subject areas had to be expanded if the dictionary was to serve both its traditional general public and the growing world of serious music studies. Early music, for example, the study of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque topics, has developed hugely, as indeed public interest reflects; hundreds of new (or rather, old) composers had to be entered, and those there before had to be reassessed more fully. The former short selective surveys of such subjects as libraries, editions, periodicals and sources had to give way to a more comprehensive coverage if to be useful beyond a dilettante level.

Similarly, articles on major composers cannot now have 60-item bibliographies, mainly of English references, but must fully represent historical and

L. S. Lowry: A Private View
Granada

John Russell Taylor

Several times recently it has seemed that BBC documentaries about art were banking after drama, but somehow stopping short in that too-busy-trapped-in-land where an actor, soberly clad as any, Delacroix, would invite passages from the writings in the intervals between bouts of more conventional camera roving among masterpieces. David Wheatley's film about the life and work of L. S. Lowry wisely decides to go the whole hog, becoming a touring feature in which the roles of Lowry and the various important characters in his life are re-created in dramatic terms and fully acted out as in any purely fictional piece. It is to the credit of all con-

cerned that though Mr Wheatley's script is very properly concerned with accuracy and fairness, the film still comes over more as a self-sufficient drama than as that uneasy uncomfortable hybrid of documentary and fiction. Though danger looms at the opening, in the form of one of those non-characters, the friend who is (apparently) doing an interview and so can pop up every now and then to ask leading questions like "Was there ever a girl?" in fact the device is unobtrusive and has a lot of the curve taken off it by Bernard Repton's ingenious creation of character from little looks and pregnant pauses. Really, though, it serves principally to get us into the story proper, and that immediately picks up its own momentum.

The main attraction of Lowry as a character is his extreme oddity and mysteriousness. He deliberately created a mystery about his life (from collecting), and quite cheerfully admitted to lying, or at any rate making misleading statements, about the details of his painting career to put the inquisitive or even the seriously interested off the track. And his emotional life remained his own secret—perhaps secret even from himself. Throughout his life he kept returning in his paintings to the image of a young woman whom he called Ann, apparently a childhood acquaintance who he sometimes suggested had died many years before, sometimes implied was still alive.

The period background and the visual materials of Lowry's grim urban landscapes with figures are finely evoked, and the paintings themselves are economically used when they are relevant, particularly the increasingly anguished, expressionistic self-portraits. Malcolm Tierney, aging internally as well as externally from 20 to 88, manages to catch the pawk, ironic charm of this awkward old cuss very well, emphasizing the freedom he found within his own servitude.

Emmylou Harris
Apollo Victoria

Richard Williams

Paranoid among Emmylou Harris's virtues is an interest in actively promoting the cause of those young writers whose work is poised between country music and rock and roll but who have yet to be taken seriously by the conservative Nashville community. On the other hand, she is a critic of her own kind, and her delivery, which fails to point up the differences between the songs' individual characters.

The first half of Tuesday's concert justified such complaints. Essentially, flip through her back pages, it included Rodney Crowell's "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues", Townes Van Zandt's "Poncho and Lefty" and Willie Nelson's "Guitar Song". All of which went by in a song-and-dance manner, and quite cheerfully admitted to lying, or at any rate making misleading statements, about the details of his painting career to put the inquisitive or even the seriously interested off the track. And his emotional life remained his own secret—perhaps secret even from himself. Throughout his life he kept returning in his paintings to the image of a young woman whom he called Ann, apparently a childhood acquaintance who he sometimes suggested had died many years before, sometimes implied was still alive.

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Rachmaninov outside Russia

LPO/Sanderling
Festival Hall

William Mann

It used to be supposed that self-imposed exile from his native Russia dried up the well-springs of Rachmaninov's creative imagination. Exception being allowed for the Paganini Rhapsody, perhaps because it was laid off by another composer, it is hard to see how it could be. By now it is clear that Rachmaninov remained a splendid composer all his life, albeit given to bouts of despondency. Life outside Russia merely changed him into a different sort of composer.

The later, American Rachmaninov was the topic of Kurt Sanderling's concert on Tuesday with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, if you concede that the metamorphosis began for him with the third-piano concerto composed expressly for his debut in America, one of his very finest works and significant different in tone of voice from what he had composed before.

Here, at any rate, is the onset of the cooler Rachmaninov, the supreme virtuoso of the piano still, the masterly musical architect more than ever, the aching heart no longer worn on the sleeve but half-concealed beneath the famous poker-face and an almost brash energy, then considered typically American, which most likely dominates his later works—that Rhapsody, the fourth piano concerto, the *Symphonic Dances*, the third symphony.

Sanderling paired the third piano concerto with the third symphony. He came to Rachmaninov the other way round, a Prussian musician who fled Nazi Germany for the Soviet Union; but he understands Rachmaninov's music completely. Throughout the concert he had all departments of the LPO on their corporate quiver, constantly watchful for phrasing and tone-colour.

Amadeus

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Noel Goodwin

Although a convalescent Siegmund Nissel was not yet well enough to rejoin his colleagues in the Amadeus Quartet on Tuesday, the concert programme carried the hope that he will be back for their next date here in April. Meanwhile, they were able to make the best of the opportunity for the remaining three to stay with Beethoven for this occasion, and in place of the intended quartet to remind us what pleasure is often overlooked in the string trios.

Three of the five works Beethoven wrote in this form map out the programme, the players first tackling the deceptive ingenuities of Op 3 in E flat. The fact that the composer wrote all his string trios before he was 30 and thereafter changed to quartets has some-

Royal Ballet's jubilee line

John Percival

The Royal Ballet's jubilee will be celebrated this summer in special seasons at Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells and on tour. Works representative of the company's history will be given, but there is also to be emphasis on the future, with several new productions. They include Kenneth MacMillan's *Isadora*, to a score by Richard Rodney Bennett, which has its first performance at the Royal Opera House on April 30, and creations by several young choreographers, David Bintley, Jonathan Burrows, Michael Carter, Derek Deane and Jennifer Jackson, to be given at Sadler's Wells on April 7.

On the actual anniversary of the company's first full performance, May 5, Princess Margaret will attend the performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* at Covent Garden, with Lesley Collier and David Wall in the leading roles. That same evening at the Hippodrome, Bristol, Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet will give *The Rake's Progress* and *Façade*, with a selection of short pieces. Both Royal Ballet companies will take part at Covent Garden on May 29 and May 30 in three performances of a special anniversary programme which is being kept secret as a surprise for the audience.

The jubilee performances at the Royal Opera House will be accompanied by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, as the Covent Garden Orchestra will then be appearing in Manchester with the Royal Opera. David Atherton will conduct a Stravinsky programme from May 22 to May 25. BBC Television will transmit three special programmes during May, and in early June the National Film Theatre will devote a week to films featuring the Royal Ballet. There will be a costume exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum from April 8 until July 25, and an exhibition at Liberty's for two weeks starting April 29. Two books will be published to mark the jubilee: a history of the company by Alexander Bland, and a book of pictures assembled by Sarah Woodcock with text by Katherine Sorley Walker.

Helpmann's Hamlet

John Percival

The Royal Ballet is to revive Robert Helpmann's *Hamlet*, which was first presented in 1942. It will be seen first on April 2, with Anthony Dowling in the title role, as part of a quadruple bill which is completed by *Les Sylphides*, the *pas de deux* from Sir Frederick Ashton's *Sylvia* and Kenneth MacMillan's *Gloria*.

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THE RETURN OF ONE OF THE SCREEN'S TRUE CLASSICS!

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BACK IN THE WEST END FOR AN EXCLUSIVE RUN

ANDREI TARKOVSKY'S **MIRROR** MINEMA

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Arts
agenda

1. For the 10th...
2. The...
3. The...
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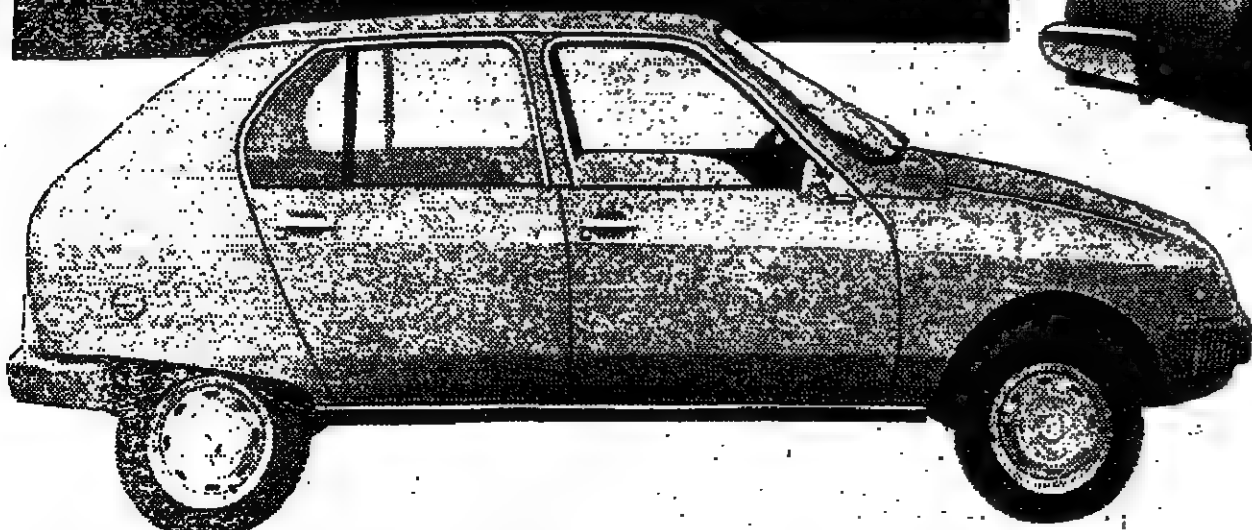
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Bernard Levin

Mrs Thatcher and the baffling case of the missing index-link

In the matter of the index-linked pensions she suddenly goes coy and hands the whole thing over to a committee who throw the poisoned chalice into the nearest dustbin and run for the hills...



It is said that Mrs Thatcher is displeased at the meagre results of the Scott inquiry into the matter of index-linked pensions. If she is, I can only say to her "Tu l'as voulu, Georges Dandin". Did she, or anybody in the Government, really expect anything better or other than the collection of tautologies that the inquiry has produced?

Hark: "It is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected". Hark again: "Good pensions, like anything else, have to be earned and paid for during working life and the burden to be shouldered over the next 20 years will steadily grow". Hark yet again: "We suggest that the Government should look seriously at the case for issuing indexed bonds to cover pension liabilities". Hark once more: "In our work, if we have been forcibly reminded that the main objective of public policy must be to beat inflation, we have also been reminded of the serious concern that pensions over a high proportion of the private sector are not good enough". Hark finally (though I could go on for a couple of columns): "If as a society we fail to face these realities we shall find that the precept 'it is a highly desirable social objective that the standard of living of those in retirement should be protected' will be but an empty phrase".

Well, Sir Bernard Scott and his team can certainly claim to be connoisseurs of empty phrases. Indeed, it could be said that there is not a single full phrase anywhere in their report, and I have no doubt that it was only their commendable wish not to delay the birth of their mouse that prevented these eminent mountaineers from adding words to the effect that, other things being equal, fine weather is preferable to hailstorms, that, allowing for a proper margin of error in such complex calculations, 30 days had September, April, June and November, and that startlingly unorthodox view though many might consider it, a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

But my complaint today is not directed at the inquiry itself and the way in which its members have run away from every question they considered, even including the one they were not asked to consider but

did anyway. Computer scientists have a useful acronym, GIGO, which stands for "Garbage in, garbage out" and it sums up my feelings about the debacle of this report. For the truth is that Mrs Thatcher did not need to set up any such inquiry, and should not have done so. It is the job of Prime Ministers and their governments to take decisions, and it is most emphatically the job of this particular Prime Minister, if she wants to be distinguished from her predecessors by any differences more crucial than that she is the only one (so far as we know, anyway) to wear lipstick and pearls, not to take refuge behind Royal Commissions, Select Committees, Advisory Inquiries or any of the other devices for avoiding action that governments have for many years used.

Come, let me put it as starkly as possible. I voted for Mrs Thatcher for a large number and variety of reasons, but four, though not necessarily the most important, seem to me in retrospect to have assumed a profound symbolic significance. They are: that she should not give jobs in her government to people like Mr

Hector Monro, that she should not give expensive quangos to people like Mr Ivor Richard, that she should not provide seats in Parliament for people like Mr Victor Maitland, and that she should make up her own mind on the questions her office obliges her to answer, and not try to avoid doing so by asking somebody else to answer them for her. She had already broken my first three rules, and she has now broken the fourth as well: indeed, she has done worse, for she has broken one that was not even in the original contract, to wit that if she did succumb to the temptation to have off her responsibility, she should at least choose for the job a group of people who would not instantly flee from it themselves. Is she running a government or playing pass-the-parcel?

Harsh words, no doubt. But consider: suppose, instead of producing a report for which the only suitable response is a couple of columns of gripe-water and a vigorous patting on the back, the inquirers had delivered something that expressed a view. Suppose they had expressed

her eyes: she can't change the latter, and she can't indefinitely evade the former. Not long ago, the suggestion was made that some kind of independent body should be set up, with statutory powers to control the money supply, so that governments would no longer have recourse to the printing-press when they felt the need to pump popularity into their electoral fortunes by pumping cash into the economy. I cannot remember who put this wheeze forward, though I hope it wasn't me, because it strikes me as about the dearest notion I have heard for a very long time indeed.

Governments are elected, in countries like ours, to govern. True, they rarely do, what they are elected to do, and still less often do they do it well, but that, and nothing else at all, is what their job consists of, and what makes the present affair all the more lamentable is that Mrs Thatcher and some of her Ministers had been showing every sign of doing their proper work for their wages: at the very least, they should have tried to abolish the system, even if it meant that they would appear to be a woman who doesn't know her own mind. Yet in the matter of the index-linked pensions—a matter over which, ironically, enough, she must sooner or later declare her own mind—she suddenly goes coy and hands the whole thing over to a committee, who throw the poisoned chalice into the nearest dustbin and run for the hills.

Serve her right. For in addition to the reasons, listed above, for my decision to vote for her, there was another, and that one the most powerfully persuasive of all. It was that I wanted a Prime Minister who could not, even in the thickest fog, be mistaken, even by the most short-sighted of observers, for Sir Harold Wilson or Mr James Callaghan. And if she is to continue to be readily distinguished from that precious pair, she had better make it clear very soon that she is always willing to take her own decisions.

Boswell tells of Dr Johnson taking a too hot potato in his mouth at dinner and promptly spitting it out upon the tablecloth. In the silence that followed he was heard to say coolly: "Now a fool would have swallowed that." My advice to Mrs Thatcher is to make up her mind on the question of index-linked pensions for the public service, and then swallow.

The word is responsibility, and it is no use Mrs Thatcher saying she doesn't want it, because she might as well say she doesn't like the colour of

Is Spain disillusioned with democracy?

Madrid. The resignation of Senor Adolfo Suarez has left a temporary power vacuum in an already troubled Spain—what the intentions of the country's prime minister for the past four and a half years about attempting a comeback later.

Nerves are on edge because this is the first real political crisis since the democratic constitution came into effect in 1978 and Senor Suarez left his Centre Democratic Union (UCD), the largest party but a dozen MPs short of a majority in parliament, weakened by factional rivalries.

The UCD's party conference last weekend in Palma brought into the open these differences which are now especially inappropriate. The wife of a professor at Majorca's new university commented to me: "It seems democracy is fated to be only an interlude in Spain. A few years of stability things start to break up. I remember in my childhood the republic began so well in 1931, but then everything was lost in the civil war."

The sense of instability is in some people's bones; in others the old authoritarian reflexes respect for immediately to the power vacuum and contemporary problems like Basque terrorism, law and order, drugs among the young, unemployment, and the economic depression which have little or nothing directly to do with democracy though they all arrived in the Spanish popular awareness about the same time.

The danger point for Spain's new democracy is not now. It will come more probably if there is a succession of weak and unstable governments, whether they are built around the UCD or the socialist party (PSOE) of Senor Felipe Gonzalez and especially if the accompanying economic and social problems worsen.

Many Spaniards still have little "depth" to their politics and have too quickly now become disillusioned with democracy as many were too enthusiastic about it three or four years ago. But all have votes to cast in the democratic elections at election time.

An old army general raised his voice last weekend against all Spain's politicians, though it made little visible impact where it should have been heeded most—the UCD conference. He had been outraged by the incident in which King Juan Carlos was involved last week in Guernica at the hands of the extremist Basque nationalist party Herri Batasuna ("Basque Unity") and the cold-blooded killing 48 hours later by ETA Militar the more anarchically extremist of the two Basque terrorist groups, of a kidnapped nuclear engineer.

Published in *El Alcazar*, the far right daily of the Civil war combatants' association, General Fernando de Santiago, who was deputy premier in the first Suarez government, wrote: "In Guernica they insulted Spain and the King, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces and, therefore, they offended all of us who wear uniform..."

The political parties at this time do not represent the people who, defrauded, have turned their backs on this cubincage. Things have gone too far, the hour has arrived that we should stop this breaking up of our national unity and save Spain."

Such old-fashioned nationalist tones could hardly be in greater contrast to the speech Juan Carlos made after waiting patiently for the Herri Batasuna men to be elected from Guernica's Casa de Juntas by security guards.

Giving an outstandingly liberal interpretation to Basque history, the King told the rest of Spain that Basque home rule, through the exercise of its *Fueros* (historic rights) had never disrupted national unity. "On the contrary," he went on, "it must be recognized that the integration of the Basque country through its links with the crown only became a problem when the traditional policy of mutual loyalties, which had been at the basis of our union, was broken."

Guernica was the highlight of the King's visit which ended, whether serving military men approved or not, with a symbolic embrace at San Sebastian's airport between Juan Carlos and Senor Carlos Garaicoechea, Chief Minister of the new Basque autonomous regional government.

The king's visit was courageous and a success in the campaign, which is now of the highest importance, to isolate ETA.

To judge by Monday's massive protest demonstrations throughout the Basque country, the *Euzkadi* have themselves speeded up the process by assassinating Jose Maria Ryan Estrada, chief engineer building the Lemona nuclear power plant near Bilbao. Basque workers, the class ETA claims to be fighting to liberate, had vainly appealed to them for his life in an open letter in *Deia*, the Basque nationalist daily.

The Basque visit and the

government crisis have brought the King, momentarily at least, into the political arena. Months back Juan Carlos ordered his aides to prepare a study of European constitutional precedents, for he is as much interested in a stable government being formed by the politician he nominates under article 62 of the Constitution as any Spanish democrat. The UCD politicians resist the idea of general elections while their internal conflicts persist after a series of disastrous election defeats last year—in a Seville by-election they polled only 8.3 per cent of the vote.

But the King wants to keep to the constitution—the four-year life of the legislature does not end till 1983—because he senses any departure might begin a process of unravelling democracy. What is at stake now is the ability of the democratic parties to give Spain good government. Franco's governments did not need to obtain popular endorsement by solving problems. Immigrant workers' remittances home, foreign investment and Spain's sunshine for the tourists during western Europe's prosperous sun past decades gave the man in the street progress, however erratic.

But the UCD has now in tackle the same economic and social problems baffling other western governments and sort out its own identity. The transition period to democracy is also over for the UCD. Senor Suarez believes it is an interclass party that the UCD can still go on winning elections despite changed economic times.

But the other third of the party believes the UCD's future can only be as a conservative or moderate right party like those elsewhere in Europe, attracting more exclusively to middle-class interests as the PSOE advances on the modernist left.

What the UCD cannot go on doing, they argue, is to keep amassing votes from all sectors of a society come newly to democracy by means of a party apparatus which derives its sort of generalization but which neglects to attend to any of that electorate's needs. All the talk in Palma about "internal party democracy" was really about having the power to respond to the interests of a class by generalization but which neglects to attend to any of that electorate's needs. All the talk in Palma about "internal party democracy" was really about having the power to respond to the interests of a class by generalization but which neglects to attend to any of that electorate's needs. All the talk in Palma about "internal party democracy" was really about having the power to respond to the interests of a class by generalization but which neglects to attend to any of that electorate's needs.

Richard Wigg

Ronald Butt

The bogus race charges against the Nationality Bill

The Government's British Nationality Bill, which has this week begun its committee stage in the House of Commons, was scarcely in print before it was attacked by those who have vigorously resisted every proposal to control immigration in the last 40 years.

They hardly needed to read and digest it to know that it was in principle a bad Bill, and they were confident that the pressure groups which had provided them in the past with the righteous ammunition of arguments and statistics would be able to instruct them in the detail of its badness. And why was the Nationality Bill bad? Because, as their repeated argument has it, this is not so much a Nationality Bill as another immigration measure based on "race".

Yet how can this or any other Bill seeking to define nationality, and to determine a person's right to it, not be related to immigration? If the British Isles were still, as they were from the Middle Ages until the beginning of this century, untroubled by any attempts at large scale migration of other peoples we should not need to define nationality. What makes it necessary to do so now are the consequences of a migration that has not stopped yet. This, of course, is the answer to Mr Roy Hattersley's claim that the

Bill reverses a 700-year-old right of anyone born here to British citizenship. In fact, that ancient right was to be a subject of the crown and it made perfect sense when the difficulty of travel made impossible the sort of abuses that can occur today.

In the aftermath of the old imperial sentiment, we were naturally reluctant at first to impose restraints when the number of immigrants was comparatively small. In manageable numbers, they were welcomed, but the rate of immigration became such that efforts had to be made to control it by new laws. Each one of these was more or less rendered ineffective by the willpower of those who have opposed every immigration law and now the Nationality Bill as "racist". Their technique of opposition was simple but devastating. They created a new equation between immigration control and what they call "race", and they have again succeeded in killing the Bill by applying this well-worn formula to it.

So on what grounds do they attack the new Bill as "racist"? They do so because, they say, it will in practice hit people who are, in their professed emotive terminology, "black"—by which they mean (if one must follow them in their obsession with pigmentation) mostly brown or yellow, since the extent of Caribbean immigration is no longer significant and is in any case probably easier to absorb

than the culturally and linguistically more different groups from Asia. Yet how can this or any other Nationality Bill avoid affecting mainly brown or yellow people since it happens to be principally these people who are either seeking to come in, or whose present possession of citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies (though giving them no right of residence here) might be cited as the basis of "moral" claim to residence in certain possible future circumstances?

The Bill's opponents claim that it has a bias against the non-white commonwealth, but this is bound to be so since it is from the non-white commonwealth that immigration (with the evasion of immigration controls) has largely come and remains likely to come. If it came mainly from the white commonwealth it would be the white commonwealth that was principally affected by the Bill—and what would become of the "racist" argument then?

Or let us suppose that, by some magic formula, the Indians, Chinese and Malaysians whose rights are said to be affected by the Bill could be whitened; or let us pretend that they were no more different from the British majority than Poles or Germans. Would the charge of "racism" still stand against the Bill?

In their attack on the Nationality Bill, some of the religious leaders, egged on by the pressure groups



Archbishop Worlock: "It must be racist..."

operating on this subject inside their churches, have seemed less than rational. In the case of the Roman Catholic archbishops, led by Cardinal Hume and Archbishop Worlock of Liverpool, I will go so far as to say that their reaction has been impertinent in the worst sense of the word—that it is not pertinent to the true

nature of the argument and also, in its detailed attack on a parliamentary measure, goes beyond their proper province.

In Monday's BBC *Panorama*, Archbishop Worlock of Liverpool said of the Bill: "Well, it must be racist, or racial at least, by implication in the sense that the cases that the Bill is really going to deal with are people who for the most part are going to be included or excluded because of where they come from and the colour of their skins."

If the people so dealt with were white? Would it still be racist? And what is race? And is the archbishop saying that because the people affected principally may be brown or yellow they should be free of restraints which could properly be imposed on them, with our charge of racism, if they were white?

These naive episcopal interventions are more likely to stir up racial tensions than, as the bishops obviously wish, to damp them down. Since the law is already full of gangs of the less reasonable immigrant leaders that their communities are persecuted while residing in the feeling of many of the older inhabitants that the right of protection for the British identity is undermined.

To criticize the Bill's racialistic hierarchy in this way will to some seem shocking and disrespectful, but if the bishops choose to come down into the political arena with

detailed political argument, they must face the same sort of criticism that can properly be levelled at politicians.

Of course, there are always moral and religious questions underlying the law as it affects the behaviour of human beings to each other, and one such question is how we deal with people of another "race", nation or family. Of course, the archbishops have a duty to speak on the principles which should guide conduct in such matters as they do, quite properly, when they state categorically the sanctity of human life in opposing euthanasia or abortion.

Yet curiously in this matter of "race" they seem to speak with an attention to detail and an expectation that the details of the law should be written to their approval which has never applied, I think, to their approach to abortion, while leaving their own flock in no doubt about what is right and while supporting attempts to tighten the law in their direction, they have never thought it right to prescribe what the law determined by the parliamentary majority should be.

Now, however, they are virtually demanding that the Nationality Bill should be written to their approval and to satisfy in detail the nine principles which they outlined in 1979. They have condemned the Bill as "misconceived" (even though the majority would support it) and have demanded that the Home Secretary should reconsider

it, claiming for themselves an expertise in determining the consequences of this or that clause, for which I should have thought their qualifications were not great.

On *Panorama*, Archbishop Worlock again demanded (quite against British custom, which eschews this sort of generalization) that the Bill should begin with a ringing declaration that Britain's identity is multi-racial, rejecting Mr William Whitelaw's view that this is in any case self-evident. Well, let the archbishop say what he means by race, racial and multi-racial since such terms, if enacted, might become a matter for the law courts. What better opportunity could he have for a return to medieval scholasticism?

Of course Britain is now multi-racial in the sense that there are large and growing minorities, but sharing the origin and common culture of the majority and this is not to be changed. But having accepted this, what more must the majority do to purge themselves of the bogus charge of racism?

The Nationality Bill, hardly a lion of a measure, has already been weakened on two important points under pressure. Still, it is something that an attempt is being made to define a British nationality for the future. It is a start towards rebuilding national cohesion. The underlying question remains what the morality of nationhood, that is a subject to which I hope to return.

LONDON DIARY

Polish corridor without power

One side effect of the current events in Poland is that prime ministers of that country now appear to have a security of tenure marginally less than that of English football players. Yesterday I had the pleasure of discussing the Warsaw political climate with the Polish prime minister who has held down the job without serious challenge for the past five years.

Kazimierz Sabbat would be the first to admit he is not a serious threat to General Jaruzelski, who moved into Eastern Europe's hottest seat this week. Sabbat is a south London businessman who since 1976 has headed the Polish government-in-exile, a hang-over from the last major re-drawing of European boundaries at Yalta in 1945, which still maintains a brave presence at Eaton Place, SW1, with a full cabinet of 11 ministers.

Sabbat, who leads a loose coalition of independents, took power from his Socialist predecessor in 1976, and was confirmed in office in the general election of 1978, in which one quarter of the 130,000-strong Polish community in Britain voted. His

greatest success in office is to have been vilified in a recent edition of the Soviet journal *Literary Gazette*, in which the Eaton Place Cabinet was described as directing the counter-revolutionary forces aimed at removing Communist government from Poland.

The Soviets were too kind: Eaton Place does not have that degree of influence.

"We are the focus of political activity abroad, and the inspiration of people at home, but I do not see us actually ever returning to take power in Warsaw," Sabbat said. "Our main purpose is to represent a true picture of Poland in the West."

The old Poland has kept a presence in London since the Polish government moved here during the war. The current president is Count Edward Ruczkowski, who prefers a discreet home near Harrods to the official presidential residence in Eaton Place.

Sabbat insists that the London Polish government does not engage in any kind of counter-revolutionary activity, although it does collect money and send food parcels back home.

"When I spoke to him, Sabbat was surprisingly moderate in his views of his newly-installed rival in Warsaw: 'There is one thing to Jaruzelski's credit: during the strikes last

August, he stated clearly that the Polish army should not shoot Polish workers. Whether he will be able to maintain this posture, no one knows."

His views on the Soviet threat to Poland were less compromising: "Russia has swallowed too much. Poland is a foreign body stuck in the Soviet block's throat. They do not want to spit us out, but they cannot swallow us."

Sabbat thought that direct Soviet intervention was not imminent, and that the war between the government and the emergent workers' movements would continue for some little time yet. And if in the more distant future there were ever to be a non-Communist government in Warsaw, he conceded, it would come from inside Poland rather than from Eaton Place.

Canada calling

It is a pleasant change to be able to report political machinations concerning Canada, a nation normally regarded by headline-hungry news editors as one of the most dullly unproductive corners of the earth—at least since Margaret Trudeau took flight in search of a gayer life.

Being appointed British High Commissioner in Ottawa has not been regarded in the past



Before that he was our man in Budapest.

On the other hand, friends of Mrs Jean Wadds, the Canadian High Commissioner in London, have expressed surprise at her telephonic phobia. Those who knew her in previous incarnations, first as daughter and

wife of wealthy Ontario Conservatives, and later as a Canadian MP and party secretary, could not recall her clutching under desks for bugs or looking compulsively over her shoulder. I managed to find one associate who recalled having a conversation with her, spy-style, in close proximity to running water to foil the microphones, although the water was actually coming from a garden hose.

There is some doubt, however, that the leaked diplomatic cables mentioning wiretapping by the British actually emanated from Mrs Wadds, who is more of a hostess than a diplomat. When the constitutional issue began to boil last November a certain Mrs Reeves Haggan was flown in from Canada as a "special adviser."

Mrs Wadds, an attractive 60-year-old divorcee, whose chief role had been to arrange supper parties at which selected victims from Westminster could be browbeaten by Canadian diplomats on the constitutional issue.

Although a Conservative by background, Mrs Wadds was confirmed in her London post when Pierre Trudeau's Liberals regained power, when Trudeau was in London last summer she was a recipient of his legendary charm—in scant evidence

recently—and was apparently converted to his constitutional views.

Look in your 1981 diary, and I'll bet it says that British Summer Time begins this year on March 22. Well, it's wrong, as is every diary I have examined, with the honourable exception of the Oxford University Diary. All others were printed before last year to bring our start of summer time in line with Europe. The Royal Observatory confirmed yesterday that the correct date is March 29, so do not adjust your clocks until then, unless you wish to be done out of that hour in bed a week too soon. There is no change in the end of BST; it remains at October 25.

a tiepin, has produced one for the Parliamentary Labour Party, a modestly historic event when you recall that the founders of the PLP earlier in the century had bowler hats specially designed for them.

Mason has produced a limited selection of ties in green, maroon and blue. The green version is selling quite well, the blue has sold out, but there is a growing minority in maroon. Do detect another subtle pointer towards centism (blue being the colour most closely associated with Limehouse, at least among the jazz fraternity), or is it just because the sartorially-conscious Labour backbenchers from the polytechnics feel that a red tie would clash with their sombre suits?

I do not mind Nigel Dempster, the Daily Mail's stylish raker of inconsequential muck, writing mischievous stories about the misdeeds of newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch. But when he warns this newspaper in *Late* of what he might expect under a new proprietor, Cavendish, Timorun, he could at least try to get his grammar right: workers of *The Times* are plural. His piece, incidentally, was about factual errors.

Alan Hamilton



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DOOMED FROM THE START

Inevitably, a storm of protest has greeted yesterday's much heralded and widely feared announcement by the French-owned Talbot company that it intends to close its Scottish car plant at Linwood. Mr Bruce Millan, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, calls it "absolutely disastrous news" and wants everything possible done "to prevent this catastrophe happening".

Mr John Davidson, the Confederation of British Industry's Director in Scotland, describes it as a "major blow to the economy of the west of Scotland". Mr Donald Stewart, MP for the Western Isles and leader of the Scottish Nationalists at Westminster, regards the blow as "critical" and Mr Jimmy Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, has suggested that his movement will support Linwood workers if they decide to fight the shutdown.

The impact of the French decision on Scotland, with its particularly high level of unemployment, will indeed be extremely severe. Nearly 5,000 jobs will go directly at Linwood. Although the British Steel Corporation claims that the plant takes only about a tenth of its output from the Ravenscraig plant, that hard-pressed industry will also suffer. There will be repercussions, too, among component suppliers, and on commercial undertakings in the immediate vicinity of the plant.

Yet to call upon workers and the British Government to fight the French decision, while understandable, is almost certainly both wrong and unhelpful. Linwood's problems go back many years—to a time, indeed, before the plant was even built.

The first mistake was made by the Macmillan administration, when it took its "Solomon's judgment" to erect not one major sheet steel-producing plant but two in South Wales and Scotland. This muted the clamour from the two regions for consideration where the provision of jobs was concerned, but it left Scotland with a plant that lacked adequate outlets for its products. Linwood was erected by the old British-owned Rootes organization to build the new Hillman Imp and, in part, to fill this gap.

When Rootes got into difficulties the Labour Government, mindful of the impact on its electoral prospects of more redundancies in Scotland, decided to support a rescue operation mounted by America's Chrysler Corporation. In doing so it flew in the face of advice given by its own advisers. And when Chrysler found that it, too, had had enough, the new straw offered by the giant French Peugeot-Citroën group was seized.

Linwood's early troubles came, in large part, from bad industrial relations, low productivity and—later—aging models. Recently, productivity has shown a marked improvement and disputes have lessened. But these changes for the better have clearly come too late.

The French multinational, like its counterparts throughout Western world, is in the grip of the worst recession in post-war history. Some 23,000 of its home-based workers are on short time, its losses are mounting, and it clearly believes that there are other and potentially more profitable plants than Linwood at which to build its replacement family car for the Peugeot 104.

Even with a sizable measure of financial support from the present British Government, which would have been forthcoming, it cannot see the Scottish plant becoming viable.

This is the kind of decision that a commercial undertaking, as distinct from a government or from individuals quite properly concerned with social implications, is best qualified to take. There is no point in pouring more money into an operation which had a doubtful genesis and which was propped up by the British Government under American pressure in the 70s, and against the best advice of those charged with examining its problems.

The energies of those concerned with the totally unacceptable level of unemployment in Scotland—and the concern should be shared by everyone—must now be directed not at destructive criticism of the French, but at constructive suggestions designed to produce work of value.

There are several lessons to be learned from the Linwood affair. One is that "undertakings" of the kind given first by Chrysler and then by Peugeot, however well intentioned, cannot guarantee jobs: another, that improvements in productivity and labour relations cannot and must not be deferred in today's harsh economic circumstances; a third, that the provision of limitless sums of both public and private money will not sustain enterprises whose products have little appeal; and above all, that the survival, or extinction, of Britain as an industrial nation ultimately depends entirely on its own enterprise and endeavours.

IN DEFENCE OF WESTERN VALUES

In many ways it is an odd time for the Committee for the Free World to bring itself into existence. At its inaugural press conference on Tuesday this multinational of concerned intellectuals said in a prepared statement that "free societies are coming increasingly under attack... Our aim is to alter the climate of confusion and complacency, apathy and self-denial, that has done so much to weaken the Western democracies in the face of growing threat to their continued viability and even their existence as free societies". It went on to assert that in the mass media, institutions of higher learning and "among intellectuals generally" it had now become nearly orthodox to assert that the freedom of free societies was a sham. Such denigration of western values, it fears, could lead to totalitarianism of the left.

This is difficult to swallow. The general climate of public and intellectual opinion is probably less sympathetic towards Soviet communism than at almost

any time since 1917. The Soviet model has manifestly failed wherever it has been tried, and even the attempts of the new left to attribute its failures to Russian traditions rather than structural defects has had only limited success. The intellectual challenge to the principles of plural democracy is surely on the wane, at any rate in comparison with the late sixties.

The new committee must therefore be careful about attributing the west's lack of confidence and general mental confusion to the influence of the left. The west is confused and worried because it faces huge and difficult problems. Some parts of the left aggravate these problems by conspiring within the unions and the Labour Party and by promoting policies which, if carried out, would weaken the west's military defences. Against these activities the country needs to be alerted, and indeed has already been alerted. But the notion that there is a general conspiracy of left wing totalitarianism pervading the country,

and in particular the media, is exaggerated.

If the new committee is to be effective—and it deserves to be because most of its members and principles are admirable—it must avoid being regarded as a right-wing pressure group. The right has no property rights over western values. The essential basis of western political culture is the belief that nobody has access to a single truth and that we can grope forward only by jealously preserving space for the market place of conflicting ideas. In this market place the criticisms, challenges, dissatisfactions and worries of the left are as necessary as those of the right.

If the Committee for the Free World devotes itself to rational argument it will perform a very valuable function. If it occupies itself with searching out conspiracies, or if it equates criticism with subversion, it will isolate itself in an intellectual ghetto as unproductive as that in which too many leftists also seek refuge.

GRUBBING FOR VOTES

One should never be surprised at the twists and turns of the French Communist Party. Its latest notion is to make a thinly disguised appeal to racist feelings in France, and in particular to those who are resentful of the presence of immigrants from North Africa and elsewhere. Last December a raid was made on a hostel for immigrant workers from Mali in the Paris suburb of Vitry, apparently led by the Communist mayor; gas, electricity and water were cut off, and doors, staircases and windows were blocked by earth and rubble pushed up by bulldozers. Last weekend another Communist mayor in Montigny-Les-Cormeilles, another Paris suburb, collected a group of about 50 supporters and led a demonstration outside a building where a Moroccan family lived, accusing the father of the family of being a drug trafficker.

No one denies that the presence of immigrant communities creates problems in France. Many of the immigrant workers are paid very low wages and live in virtual ghettos, cut off from their surroundings. But the way in which the Communists are now drawing attention to them, and blaming the government of President Giscard d'Estaing for their existence, is calculated to appeal to a xenophobia which is never far below

the surface. The incidents in Vitry and Montigny were only the most outrageous in what appears to be a deliberate campaign, backed by M. Marchais, the party's secretary general, and the only possible explanation is that, faced with the prospect of doing badly in the first round of the presidential election in April, he has decided that this is the card to play. Certainly that is the way it is seen by discontented members of his own party.

After the incident in Vitry, M. Marchais made a speech in which he attacked the policy of allowing immigrant workers into France "at a time when we have two million French and immigrant people on the dole". He then led a march by 10,000 supporters through Vitry in support of the mayor, to the accompaniment of banners proclaiming "No to ghettos in Vitry".

In Montigny the mayor said that he had received a letter denouncing the Moroccan as a drug trafficker, and he accused the police of doing nothing about drugs in the area. He described the demonstration as an attempt to counter the drug traffic. Since then he has been sharply criticized by the Socialists and, not surprisingly, representatives of the government. But he has been

supported by senior members of the Communist Party, including M. Pierre Juquin, a member of the political bureau, who said that there was a threat to French youth, and the party would not stand idly by.

The election is an important one for M. Marchais because he has to maintain the Communist vote, or see a manifest decline in the party's influence. But the party's traditional voters are upset by the switches of policy over the last few years. In 1968, the French Communists condemned the invasion of Czechoslovakia. For a time they adopted a Euro-communist line of independence of Moscow and backed an alliance with the Socialists. But in 1977 they broke with the Socialists and a time when together they might have won the parliamentary elections, and since then they have reverted to a pro-Moscow line. They have vigorously defended the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The latest switch of policy is a demand for places in the government of M. Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, if he wins the election, after three years of bitter attacks on him. It is not surprising that the party's supporters are confused. But it shows a depth of cynicism to try to bolster them with a bigoted and racist blue-collar vote.

Trade with Eastern Europe

From Mr A. L. Stacpoole
Sir, Sir Richard Dobson (January 30) has asked an important leading question and it deserves a serious, balanced reply. Should we not, asks Sir Richard, sustain trade sanctions against the USSR because it is still in Afghanistan? No, we should not. It would be a useless, sentimental gesture akin to the Anglo-French guarantee of Poland before the last war. So much for the serious reply; now for the balance.

What we should do is to try to understand something about the fundamental significance of East-West trade. It is wrong to say that the level of East-West interdependence is low. According to one recent unchallenged commentary, no less than 25 per cent of West German trade is done with the Eastern block as much as Federal German Republic-United States trade.

It has been said that, if international opinion is again flouted as seriously as in the cases of Afghanistan or Czechoslovakia, then some West European nations are ready to cut off all trade with the block. If this is so, we ought at this time to be asking ourselves whether we would be prepared to follow them. If the Alliance is to mean anything in the present situation we should be ready with definite responses to designated moves from the other side. This public opinion should be prepared in advance.

It is most important to be clear that any interruption of East-West trade for political reasons would be taken very hard by the other side. Whilst we might envisage the interruption as being in the nature of a temporary sanction, it would be most likely that they would turn it into a prolonged rupture. It follows

that the effect would be long-term and deep. For instance, where would the Germans turn for that lost 25 per cent of their trade? In other words, the move would hurt us as well as them, and have repercussions which might surprise the public, in the light of their present information.

It is only in discussing these important questions at length and in detail that the nature of the problems which we face can be understood. There is another aspect of this which seems to me to be equally important. It must surely make a difference to the other side's selection of its options if it realizes that we understand them and are ready to face the consequences of taking the necessary measures to deal with challenges. Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY STACPOOLE,
24 Landridge Road, SW6,
February 4.

The political importance of Mrs Williams

From Sir Ronald Millar
Sir, You accurately pinpoint Mrs Shirley Williams in today's leader (February 10) as "this somewhat indecisive woman, of middling intellectual attainments, and mistaken views". You then suggest that "she would make a good Prime Minister".

Are indecisiveness, a middling intellect and mistaken views really the qualities Britain needs to lead the nation in a nuclear age? I would have thought the rigour, the resolve, the total determination of a Churchill would be rather more appropriate.

We are fortunate to have a Prime Minister with just those qualities. Let us stand firm alongside Margaret Thatcher until her lonely, often uncomfortable, far from gentle but wholly crucial work is done—and that means into and beyond the next election.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MILLAR,
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1,
February 10.

From the Dean of St Catherine's College, Oxford
Sir, The support which the public has shown for the Conservative Party coalition offers the chance of reversing the alienation of the electorate from the democratic process. It is, after all, more than 20 years since the two major parties, in 1939, captured the imagination of the electorate.

The crack in the old system has shown itself, by a combination of historical circumstances. In the Labour Party, but not all know that the present Conservative Cabinet is as divided as any Labour Cabinet has been, and the crack could have come anywhere. Those who are ready to let the Labour Party have the benefit of the doubt, and what must be more painful for them, they have to accept the fact that so far it is the moderates who have split, not the party as a whole. But in the course they are taking they are humiliating the Conservative Party, and in the process they are undermining the importance of the election.

First, they know when to accept defeat. The campaign against Cullinane, the defeat of Reailey and the humiliating of Foot are not to weep tears over, but are political facts which must be accepted. To cherish the idea of repeating Gaitkell's comeback in 1961 while lacking any one of his assets—decisive action, a consistent policy, a campaign in his support and widespread popular esteem—is to live in cloud-cuckoo-land. To fight on a different battleground is not.

Second, they do not want to live in the bleak, unattractive, and left; they want neither a siege

economy, nor enabling laws, nor oaths of loyalty, nor socialist regulation, and they do not want those who talk of these things to capture power. Is there any rationality in remaining their allies?

Still it must be emphasized that what is important in British politics is the settlement which the Labour division makes possible. The historical development is more important than its cause. How that development will now proceed is impossible to predict, but the starting-point is clear. The centre position in the former stage, but it already enjoys widespread electoral support. It can unite on an immediate programme of electoral reform and it is firmly based on an enduring consensus in its pragmatic approach to the problems of industrial efficiency and human welfare.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRID KNAPP,
St Catherine's College,
Oxford.

From Mr J. R. L. Cunningham
Sir, In your leading article of today (February 10) you say of Mrs Shirley Williams: "There is no politician who is more completely a democrat" and also: "She wants to abolish private education". Such a contradiction is inconceivable. Yours faithfully,
JOHN CUNNINGHAM,
Investment Research,
28 Fawcett Street,
Cambridge.

From Wing Commander John Boston
Sir, Thank God for your leading article today. It is a relief to find that I am not alone in my view. I must be agreed about one thing, and that is that we have never been so deeply divided as we are today, and in my opinion the situation is desperately urgent. Your leader is quite admirable. Yours faithfully,
JOHN BOSTON,
35 High Street,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mr D. C. Damant
Sir, In your leader, "The sooner the better", you state that the two old parties are widely seen as having failed. Does this mean that the nation—or you yourself—will see as failure any attempt to solve the economic problems of the country without unpleasant side effects lasting more than a year or having failed. Does this mean that we can ever escape from inefficiency and relative poverty? Or do you argue that only politicians such as Mrs Williams can persuade people to accept the right policies? Will you please consider what

Closed shop counterpoint

From Mr Alan Campbell, QC
Sir, The closed shop has the support of many employers as a matter of convenience, and of most trade unionists as a supervising device. The cautious advance by Mr. May's Government into this potentially explosive area with the introduction of a "concurrence clause" and special provisions to limit secondary action to compel trade union membership was fully justified.

However, the question remains as to whether further steps should be taken to protect the rights of individual workers who do not wish to join a trade union, or to safeguard their freedom of choice in the role of practice an appropriate expedient: should the emphasis shift from solution to safeguarding, is the reintroduction of a system of positive rights requisite in this regard?

The resolution of these questions warrants time and care, as any policy decision to shift the balance will have important political and legal repercussions. The Green Paper (Cmd 8129), as in the intention, affords valuable material for constructive discussion—and, perhaps, it is also worth recording the view of Mr Gutter, when Minister of Labour:

I have opposed the closed shop throughout the whole of my trade union career, not because of tenderness for a few who have conscientious objections, but for the other reason that it means too great a concentration of power (Hansard—February 14, 1965, vol. 705, cols 1029-30).

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALAN CAMPBELL,
1 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, ECA,
February 9.

Battle for the countryside

From the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry
Sir, During your lengthy and high minded correspondence about the future of the countryside and conservation, it is surprising how little diagnosis has been made of the root causes of the concern so many express.

Assuming that there is a declining trend, it is surely all the more necessary to reverse it by seeking remedies to those causes.

These are clearly identifiable as: 1. the built up family estates, the traditional guardians of the heritage for 500 years; and 2. the ensuing economic pressures on those who purchased the fragments.

The phrase "good estate management" automatically means, as it has done for centuries, a balanced approach to the treatment of the countryside: that simultaneously care such varied interests as the economic production of food and timber, public amenity and sport, and wildlife conservation and landscaping in a constantly changing and never static setting, all harmoniously blended into a cohesive plan with a time scale of one hundred years or more.

Too often staid eyed conservationists have backed those promoting the fragmentation process, and too late do they realise the inevitable track of the hackneyed adage about geese and golden eggs! Yours faithfully,
BUCCLEUCH,
Boswell,
Selkirk,
Scotland,
February 6.

Family matters

From Dr A. R. Rogers
Sir, When Lady Greenwich mentions the "closed shop" in her article on the "closed shop" (February 9), she gets at the very centre of the under-age sex issue.

Contrary to the advice from the British Medical Association and the Department of Health and Social Security, the decision to give a child under sixteen contraceptive advice is never the decision of the doctor. A doctor's medical knowledge enables him or her only to judge the type of contraception which might be suitable for an individual because of medical facts and that individual's medical history.

The decision to provide or not to provide contraception for a particular age group is a moral and legal one made by parents and by society. Legally and morally parents have a right to consent to any medical or surgical procedure recommended by a doctor for their child and for this reason the confidence a doctor has with a child extends to include the child's parents or guardians.

Where a doctor has reason to believe that the parents may be "unconcerned, indifferent, ill-informed or grossly disturbed" that is the very worst situation in which to issue contraception. It is clearly in the child's interest for a doctor in such a situation to seek the care and supervision of the child's parents and this is within the meaning of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969.

If the nation's teenagers are entitled to run into Brook advisory centres or family planning clinics and obtain contraceptive advice, "exceptional circumstances" exceptions will become—and are quickly becoming—the rule and the whole principle of protecting children within a family will have been shattered and irreparably damaged.

Children under sixteen should be placed in such clinics and family doctors should be far better equipped to deal with such a serious family crisis without practising expediency and signing a scribbled-for-the-pill. Such children need help, not contraception.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROGERS,
Chairman, Responsibility in Welfare,
1 Victoria Park Road,
St Leonards,
Exeter, Devon.

Civil liberties

From Mr E. Justin Evans
Sir, You give frequent and extensive publicity to reports and statements issued by the National Council for Civil Liberties but in the year 1979, I have been studying the question of the rights of prisoners and any prison inmate who complains of his treatment for disciplinary offences.

I may well have termed a biased account of the NCCL's activities in your recent reading of the report by "Unofficial Committee of Inquiry into Sobell", April 23, 1979, published last April and referred to in the latest supplement to your issue of January 7. I have done nothing to change that view in spite of the philosophical evidence of its chairman. Its one-sidedness is undeniable. It is not only biased, but it is also badly informed about the work and attitudes of the NCCL.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN EVANS,
Globe House,
Church Street,
Shropshire.

Rule of law in Malta

From the Attorney General of Malta
Sir, In your leader of February 10, under the title "The rule of law in Malta", you refer to a Bill currently before the Maltese Parliament, and you state as follows: "Once the Bill is passed, the courts will have no powers to rule on the validity of any act or other thing done by the Government or by any authority established by the constitution, or by any person holding public office, in the exercise of his public functions."

The article then goes on to pass judgment on Mr. Mintoff and his Government. This part is mostly an expression of opinion, and each is entitled to his own.

The purpose of this letter is to correct the wrong impression your readers must have gained from the part of the Bill which was quoted. Your conclusion is that once the Bill is passed, an act of the Maltese authorities may not be challenged in a court of law even if it is null or invalid. This is the opposite of the truth.

The Bill, before the Maltese Parliament, provides expressly and unequivocally that the validity of an act of the Maltese authorities may be challenged in a court of law by any one of three classes. If it is in violation of a written rule of law or if the authorities fail to observe due form in a material respect, and such non-observance causes substantial prejudice.

To the best of my knowledge this position is the same in all countries, including Britain. In our case it was far that the legal position was unclear and consequently that it should be defined by Parliament, which is now doing so. The highest institution in a democratic state but also the one entrusted with the prime duty of stating the law to be observed by its citizens.

I may add that our courts can inquire into the validity not only of acts of Parliament, but also of acts of the Executive. They can examine and decide whether a law passed by Parliament is or is not in violation of the Constitution and, in particular, whether it encroaches on any of the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution. This position will remain unchanged under the new Bill.

Correct me if I am wrong, but as far as I am aware this is a power which is common to Britain and Malta. Does that mean that Malta has a more democratic than Britain, or less observance of the rule of law?

Yours etc,
EDGAR MITZEL,
Attorney General's Office,
The Palace,
Valletta, Malta.

Pension privileges

From Mr David Green
Sir, There are in fact three nations for pension purposes, not two. Although the self-employed share with the privately employed the disadvantage of inflationary expenditure, "basic" private pension schemes are at least geared to retirement age salaries. Only the self-employed face the disaster of having to invest today's income at today's prices—and then see that investment provision wiped out by subsequent inflation. Not surprisingly, self-employment is a matter of choice. In many professions it is an obligation. In many less privileged parts of the country, such as this, it is the only alternative to unemployment.

To many in that difficult position one thing is patent: beyond any other group in the economy, the group at present privileged to enjoy index-linked pensions also contains those who, presently, are in a position to determine whether there will be inflation. The self-employed go on to tell us the price money, the civil servant enjoys a handsome personal indemnity if he does. Inflation is also concerned with attitudes and propensities. Conquering it may require that no one be immune. Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd-y-Bardd,
Castell Morris,
Haverfordwest,
Dyfed,
February 5.

The cost of dying

From the Dean of Exeter
Sir, There is really no need for the somewhat ramshackle remedies proposed by Mrs Rhodes (February 4), simple and less disturbing remedies lie in the revival of the use of the shroud in which to be buried. Under this method the corpse lies upon what is essentially a wooden tray with an opaque material stretched over it, allowed to take the shape of the body to be seen but not its details. There is nothing offensive in this and it uses under half the amount of wood needed for a coffin.

I can see no intrinsic virtue in being interred in a box when one is dead. To show that this is not mere pious theory, I have left instructions that I should be interred in a shroud.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD EYRE,
The Deanery,
Exeter,
February 5.

In vulgar parlance

From the Reverend D. G. Richards
Sir, Under Reverend in the Pocket Dictionary read: "Deserving reverence by age, character or association, especially as a prefix to clerical names." Vulg: Rev or the Rev Smith. And on page 8 today (February 7) there it is, in small capitals: "The Reverend Maturin and Mr Melmoth."

Should I be more annoyed at Mr. Richards' Holmes's constant error in his article or be overjoyed that your leader referred to Mr. Paisley, a man certainly not deserving of reverence by age, character or association? Yours faithfully,
DEREK RICHARDS,
The Rectory,
Barnmouth,
Merioneth.

Puddings that may require excuses

The Times Cook



Shona
Crawford Poole

If you are on a slimming diet read no further this week because the subject is puddings, fastening puddings, the kind of puddings many of us avoid most of the time. Digging the garden is a good excuse for puddings like these. They are also fruity, filling, and easy.

Suet puddings of any description were always greeted with loud cries of "ah duff" when I was a child and I assumed it was one of those idiotic family traditions. However the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* knows all about duff being a flour pudding boiled in a bag. Cloths have given way to pudding basins now, thank goodness, and duff is the lighter for it.

Why Sussex pond pudding is attributed to that county is not clear. The pond is obvious as soon as you cut into the rich suet crust and find a whole lemon surrounded by buttery syrup which quickly makes a puddle if not exactly a pond. It is a fresh tasting pudding.

Serves four to six
225g (8oz) self-raising flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
110g (4oz) shredded suet
About 120 ml (4 fl oz) cold water
110g (4oz) butter, diced

110g (4oz) Demerara sugar

1 large lemon

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the shredded suet and mix lightly with a fork to distribute it evenly. Make a well in the centre of the flour and add the water, a little at a time, to make a soft dough. You may not need all the water and a knife is the best instrument for the mixing. Knead the dough lightly on a floured surface until it is free of cracks and roll it out to a thickness of about 7mm (1/4 inch).

Cut a quarter segment from the dough and set it aside for the lid. Use the remaining dough to line a well buttered 900 ml (1 1/2 pints) pudding basin. Dampen the edges to be joined to make a seal.

Put half the diced butter in the bottom of the basin. Prick the lemon all over with a skewer and sit upright in the butter. Cover it with the sugar and remaining butter. Roll out the reserved dough for a lid. Dampen the edges and press it gently into place. Cover the basin with a layer of greaseproof paper and foil folded together with a 2.5 cm (1 inch) pleat and tied on tightly with string.

Stand the basin in a saucepan and pour in boiling water to come one third of the way up its sides. Cover the pan tightly and simmer the pudding for 3 1/2 hours. Top up the water level from time to time using boiling water and never allowing the water to go off the boil.

Rest the pudding for a moment or two before turning it on to a deep plate. Make sure each serving includes a slice of the lemon as well as a spoonful of syrup.

Serves four
450 g (1 lb) cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
85 g (3 oz) Demerara sugar
1 teaspoon finely grated orange or lemon zest

55 g (2 oz) softened butter
55 g (2 oz) caster sugar
85 g (3 oz) self-raising flour
1 large egg, beaten
A little milk

Butter a pie or soufflé dish of approximately 1 litre (1 1/2 pints) capacity and arrange the apple slices in the bottom. Sprinkle with the Demerara sugar and orange or lemon zest.

In a bowl cream the butter and add the caster sugar. Beat until the mixture is pale and fluffy. Beat in alternate spoons of sifted flour and egg until all of both have been incorporated. Stir in enough milk to make a mixture which will just drop from a spoon.

Spread the sponge mixture over the fruit. Bake the pudding in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for 35 to 45 minutes (depending on whether the dish is shallow or deep), or until the sponge is well risen and golden brown. Serve hot or warm with thin cream or top of the milk.

Compot creams
Serves six to eight
225 g (8 oz) dried fruit, apricots, peaches, pears and apples
85 g (3 oz) Demerara sugar
150 ml (1/4 pint) double cream
150 ml (1/4 pint) soured cream
1 teaspoon dried cinnamon
Cover the fruit with cold water

and leave it to soak for several hours or overnight. Put the fruit and its soaking water in a pan with the sugar and bring to the boil. Cover and simmer the fruit until it is tender. Drain the cooked fruit and return the liquid to the pan. Reduce the syrup by fast boiling to about two tablespoons. Cut the fruit into 1 cm (1/2 inch) cubes and pour the reduced syrup over it. Chill well.

Whip the double cream until it holds soft peaks. Fold in the soured cream, fruit, syrup and cinnamon. Mix well and chill thoroughly before serving with unfilled brandy snaps.



As pants the hart for cooling streams when heated in the chase, so part I for the written word, literally and metaphorically. Since it may well be the second aspect of my malaise which will strike readers as the more bizarre, I suppose that I had best begin my confession at the end.

There is really very little need to explain the literal panting, since it refers to a condition I find to be rampant among bibliophiles. They can never find the book that they are looking for, and the more urgently they need to check that it really was Xenophon who said "get out of my sun", or what custom Gladys Cooper wore in *No, No, Nanette*, before the deadlines are biting at their heels the faster the io-and-exhalations.

There is a quite simple explanation why serious dedicated readers can never find the right book at the right moment (though always when they least require it) but I shall come onto that later, including the popping-up when unwanted bit, a great pant producer as you will see.

For the meantime I appear to be going to have to bare a lonely vice which is so terrible that nobody else will admit to it, or has not yet done so in my presence.

I am addicted to the written word. Deprived of it I fidget, I twitch, I feel that my words are incoherently incomplete, I exhibit withdrawal symptoms, in short I find myself in dire straits. Rather, I should say I find myself in dire straits, since to be perfectly honest this fearful situation has only occurred once to my memory. That, however, was quite enough for me, oh yes indeed.

The trait of which I speak was situated, appropriately, in a watery country, in Finland. On a one night visit and after a congenial supper, it was not until I retired to bath and bed that I discovered that I had nothing, absolutely nothing, to read. Do not mistake me, I do not mean to imply that I had forgotten to roll my portable *The Decline and Fall* in my nightie, or that I was having to make do with a newspaper other than *The Times*. I am not a picky reader and, if any fellow sufferers from Metaphorical Prose/Pant syndrome are emboldened by my revelation to come out of the closet, it will be found that so great is our compulsion that we will read anything.

Our voracity knows no bounds, although in my case it does not extend to actually eating literature, a practice which proved fatal to Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia who, accustomed to swallow a few pages of the Bible when not feeling too robust, expired in 1913 after consuming the entire *Book of Kings*. Serves him right for being such a snob. He should have dieted on some gloomy old bore like Jeremiah.

Come to think of it, why was there not a Bible in my hotel room, indeed why are they now so rare to find? This is a work which has always seemed to me the ideal general reading matter, offering as it does up-lifting fact or sensational fiction, according to your view; blood, guts, incest, philosophy, poetry and all sorts of snippets which would be banned in any other context. Many of these are particularly apt for hotel room life since they cover

Prudence Glynn

Panting for the written word and not a Bible in sight

almost any eventuality from destruction by fire to warning about painting your face and "tiring your hair and putting your head out of the window", a most unwise practice, if you are lodged near any of the main rail termini.

But in my Finnish room there was nothing save the fire regulations, and they were nailed to the back of the door, and when at six o'clock next morning I tottered to the window, I had to resign myself to an hour of trying to read the name of the shop opposite which was very long, very Finnish and parts of which were obscured erratically by storm-lashed trees. It was then that I knew I was hooked.

The literal panting is a habit shared by many, so now I can swim among friends again. Also it is far easier to describe. It follows that if you are a keen reader you are likely to have a lot of books around, and books are great believers in Parkinson's law; no matter how many bookcases you have, they are never enough. This problem, however, is as nothing to the complexities of arrangement of volumes upon those shelves. I am not of course talking about books for show purposes only (spiteful guests who suspect their hosts to be illiterate and to buy their books by the yard from their interior decorator, delight in lifting down an impressive volume of, say, Pliny, and ostentatiously blowing the dust off the top; even more fun is when the whole shelf comes away in your hand and reveals a cocktail cabinet).

Nor am I talking about coffee table books, whose very name dooms them to a life in a philistine lounge.

I am talking about books which belong to people who have bought them, or (well, scholars) can be vague) borrowed them, quarried from them, and generally love them and use them, and care quite frantically about their exact location. You see it is virtually impossible to put together a library of a catholic and liberal nature which can be used by more than one person, because truly avid readers have individual reading patterns which defy neat labels comprehensible to others.

One of the symptoms of bibliomania is that one is always going to rearrange the books once and for all, so that everybody knows just where everything is. Another symptom is that the never ever gets done, despite moves of house ("all the paperbacks on the landing, darling") the arrival of the chimney sweep ("all the books in the drawing room will have to be put away, Madam") and redecoration of bits of wall which are actually supporting the books ("just pile them on the floor, Stan, would you, then I can sort them out when I put them back").

I will say any odds that they all go back just as they came out of a source of well ordered joy to the neat and well ordered, and a source of hysterical searching to those whose logic is of a different metal.

I, for example, read on the cross-reference method, which means that I frequently have six books on the go at the same time because a phrase or a thought in one has touched off an idea supported by another. I also read in the bath, turn down page corners, and stick bits of paper with cryptic notes ("rubbish") scribbled on the top. These protrude, and even-

tually yellow and crumple and cause a lot of sighing and reproachful glances around the house.

Also, having a vivid visual memory, I can recall not only just where every book should be, but what colour it is and whereabouts on the page the bit I want comes. Once my non-system is upset I am lost, and what is much more a prey to that most self-indulgent vice, literary side-tracking. In search of *The Golden Bough* I once spent an entire day with *The Golden Notebook* my sole experience of the works of Miss Doris Lessing, I am glad to say.

In principle it all looks so simple. Paperbacks on the landing, hardback in size, colour, content or author. But it is not simple at all. What if you have half of a continuing saga, say, the *Fallside* novels, in hardback and half in paper? Are you to spend your life on the stairs? Then all those traditional headings are so limiting. Poetry sounds all right, but what does one do about the appalling Burns who turns up everywhere without even the excuse of Queen Victoria and John Brown's tartan frocks which were yet to popularize Scotland. Then we run into history, biography, autobiography, gardening, self-improvement, dress, art, politics, best sellers and blockbusters. You have not forgotten about the categories of author and humour, have you?

May I suggest a totally new system of arrangement which will enable true readers to seize upon the very volume they need. My categories (I do not insist on gold leaf lettering on the margins) would start with masochism. Under this would be filed all books related to self-sufficiency, eating poisonous things out of the hedge, plays designed to be performed outdoors, outdoor cooking, gardening in any form. Then we have lies, in which the reader gets a fair chunk of History, Biography, Autobiography with biography getting a cross reference under Toadies—you know, those ghastly snivelling books? Which you can feel the widow hovering over the writer's shoulder and suppressing all the naughty, is interesting bits.

If you do not agree you could subsection it thus: Best Sellers and quasi-social blockbusters are invaluable and should be filed under Formula or Pot Boilers. All that is then necessary is to throw two or three up into the air, see where they fall open, and cobble them swiftly into your own quick money spinner.

I hate books about self-improvement, which I file under Inferiority Complex Inducers. Why should some women be able to sail through the menopause and hang on the pictures straight? Those books also tend to have terribly silly titles, such as *Success without Tears*. What we want to know is how to be a dead failure without smudging the mascara.

The snag with Authors is that you can end up under Powell with Pathos next to Enoch, and when you are a reader who is captivated by useless information (always the best sort to have) you frequently cannot remember just who wrote it, his name being subservient to the thought. As for Humour, we all know that there is only one shelf for that. It is marked Unintentional. Nor can Diaries pose a problem. You merely file them under Wishful Thinking, or Sneaks.

Successful orders

Seven years after the Community Service Scheme was introduced experimentally in six areas of Britain, most of those closest to it remain as enthusiastic about its effectiveness and possibilities as they were at the beginning. It is now viable as a sentence for imprisonment for a breach of the court in the country; 78 per cent of orders are successfully completed; 75 per cent of them are carried out by individuals without the necessity of direct supervision, thousands of people who are not in a position to pay for help have benefited from community service and it is far from unknown for a sentenced man to say on his community work on a voluntary basis after the completion of his order. But still only three per cent of eligible defendants are sentenced to community service.

Why? The second interesting question only exacerbates the first. Why has community service always enjoyed such a favourable press and public reaction? If people like the idea of offenders against society being compelled to repay their debts in a practical way and if the positive characteristics of this kind of sentence appear so obvious why is it not more frequently recommended by probation officers in their social inquiry reports and why do magistrates not use it more readily?

Part of the answer lies in the confusion which persists as to when it should be used. Section 14 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act, 1973 (which introduced the Community Service Order for imprisonment offences committed by persons over 17, of 40-240 hours of unpaid work to be performed in the community within 12 months) is ambiguous about whether it is to be regarded as only appropriate where a defendant would go into custody if community service were not available or as a separate sentence in its own right.

Different commentators have taken opposing views but the facts are that magistrates generally seem to regard it as a sentence to be used even where a defendant would not be going immediately to prison while probation officers wish they would confine it to custody cases. In support of their view, the magistrates, who, at their annual meeting last October passed, with a substantial majority, a resolution calling for community service to be used as a sentence in its own right, can quote the provisions of the Act for a breach of a CSO which do not say that persistent or serious breach results in immediate imprisonment (as with a suspended sentence) but allow the offender to be treated in any way open to the court at the time he received his CSO.

Probation officers, on the other hand, are inclined to say that it reflects neither the intention nor the spirit of the legislation and the debate which surrounded it. On the whole they dislike ambiguity.

Though nobody would claim that community service is the perfect sentence, there is now sufficient evidence that it generally works well and can occasionally be a huge success to have given both magistrates and probation officers the confidence to put their faith in it more often.

In fact, community service has all kinds of advantages over prison. To put the most measurable and, perhaps, politically persuasive first, it costs a mere £420 per person per annum against prison's £7,800. And it is not altogether a "soft option". Defendants may see it as this when they first give their consent to being sentenced to it. But after sacrificing every Saturday for a year they may begin to wish they could have done two or three months "time" and got it over with.

It may not be "soft" but it is certainly a more positive disposal than custody. For a start, it avoids all the problems which an "accident" has to face when he leaves prison and

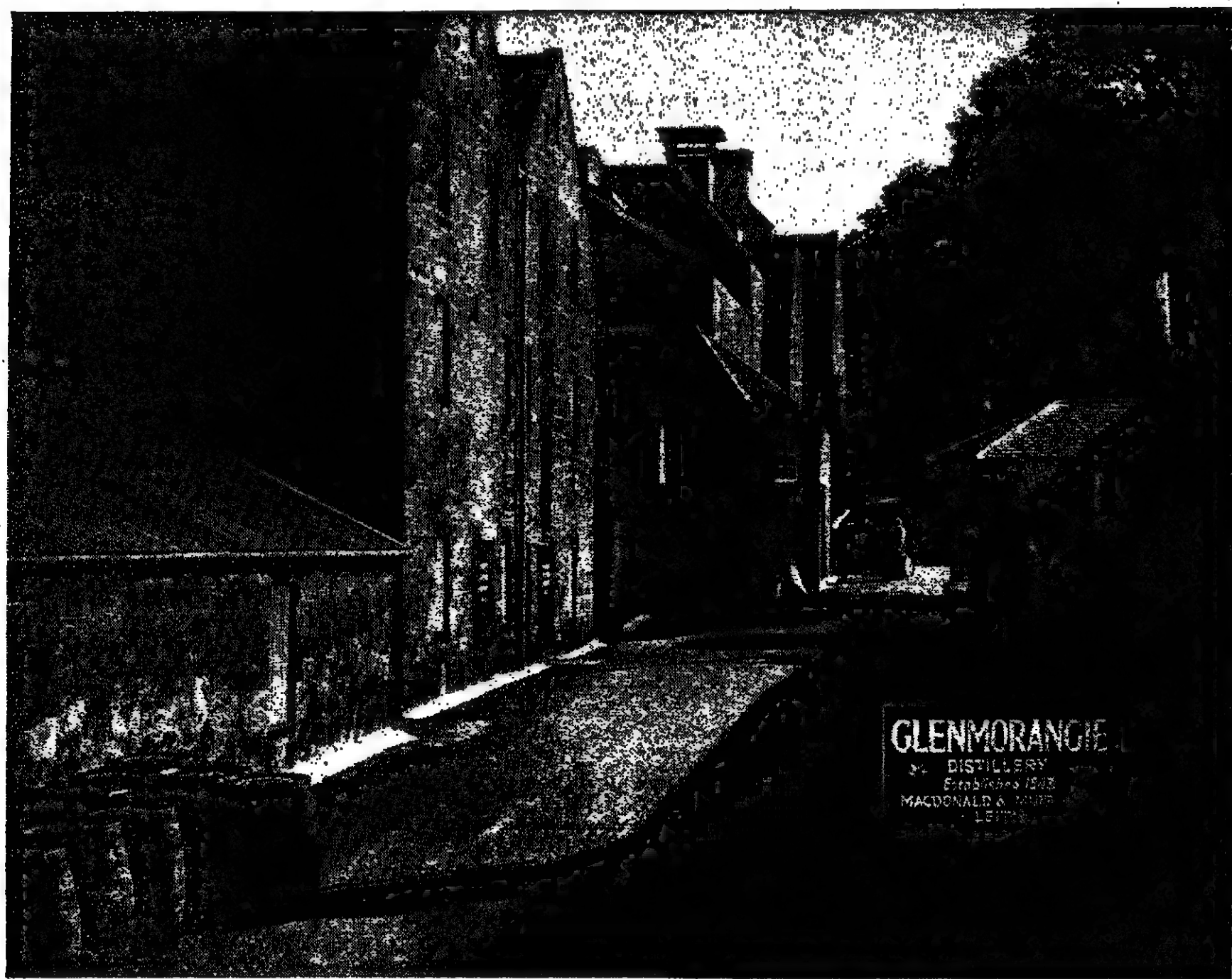
which can result in his offending again within a short period of time. Community service allows him to pursue his normal life with his family and with his job if he has one. It allows him an area of self-determination and requires of him a degree of commitment and responsibility from which if he is so motivated he can get some useful experience.

The average community service order is for 150 hours' unpaid work either alongside people being paid or as part of a group of volunteers in, for instance, old people's homes or day centres, playgrounds or adventure playgrounds.

Over 50 per cent of CSOs are made for dishonesty; only just over 10 per cent for crimes of violence. The balance is almost entirely accounted for by motoring offences, mainly taking and driving away an unlicensed car. Over a third of people on community service have five or more previous convictions and 75 per cent are in the age range 17-24, though Moira Scott, who for two years was deputy community service organizer for North-west inner London, tells of one man of 71 with a long list of previous convictions who was very successfully placed to work in pre-school nursery where he became "Grandad" to the kids and where he stayed on as a volunteer when his order had been completed.

Naturally, community service does not always work out. But only 22 per cent of orders are not completed (re-offending and failure to show up being the main reasons). This is a record which compares very well with probation. Community service is a punishment, it is retribution and it can rehabilitate and, as Moira Scott says, "Prison can be permanently damaging and disturbing experience and does not go to society as a whole. As far as I know, nobody was ever damaged by community service."

Jane Moonmar



GLENMORANGIE
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Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.

It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



مكتبة من الأصل

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
make ideas take shape

The road to closure at Linwood, page 21

Stock markets
FT Ind 496.1 up 0.5
FT Gilt 69.10 up 0.1

Sterling
\$2.3375 up 7 points
Index 104.2 unchanged

Dollar
DM 99.4 unchanged
DM 2.1477 down 30 pts

Gold
\$500.39 down \$14

Money
3-mth sterling 12 1/4
3-mth Euro 5 1/2-1/4
6-mth Euro 5 1/2-1/4

IN BRIEF

Bank union opposes 'windfall' tax

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) yesterday added its weight to criticism of the proposed 'windfall' tax on bank profits. A union executive meeting confirmed rejection of an S.3.5 cent pay offer from the banks and decided to consult members about possible industrial action in pursuit of a higher award.

The executive passed a resolution condemning proposals for a windfall tax. It was unfair, it said, to impose an additional tax on banks merely when they appeared to be profitable. The issue is linked, in the minds of the union leaders, with their talks. They see the windfall tax as providing an additional incentive to the banks to stand firm on their single-figure pay offer.



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Treasury stock

The Government's latest 1,000m offering of gilt edged stock received only a lukewarm response from investors yesterday. Applications for the Treasury 12 per cent 1986 stock were thought to have been relatively modest. All applications were allotted in full at the minimum tender price of 96 per cent.

Changes 'unnecessary'

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday said that the Government's proposals for changes to the Companies Act were unnecessary. He said that the proposals were aimed at simplifying the law and making it easier to do business in Britain.

Woolworth pay deal

Woolworth has agreed to pay its staff up to £6.80 a week for 11 grades of its retail staff. The deal was reached after negotiations with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

Saudi devaluation

The Saudi Arabian riyal has been devalued to 3.34 to the dollar from 3.33.

Wall St lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 942.49, down 1.14 on Wall Street yesterday. The \$=SDR exchange rate was 1.23623 while the £=SDR rate was 0.529435.

State loses £3,500 a year in tax and benefits for every worker without a job

By Frances Williams
Unemployment costs the Government nearly £3,500 a year in lost tax revenues and extra social security benefits for every worker put out of a job.

A rise of 100,000 in the number of people out of work adds £340m a year to government borrowing, official estimates show.

This suggests that the 900,000 rise in unemployment over the past 12 months could be costing the Exchequer nearly £3,500m—equivalent to more than half the £4,000m of £25,000m overspend on the public sector borrowing requirement expected this year.

These costs, published yesterday in the Treasury's latest *Economic Progress Report*, take into account lost tax and national insurance contributions, additional social security benefits and the extra administrative expenses of dealing with larger numbers of unemployed. But they do not include other costs such as the state Redundancy Fund payments (£242m in 1980), loss of indirect taxes because of reduced purchasing power, or the expansion of special employment schemes (costing £850m in 1980-81).

The total direct and indirect cost to the government of higher unemployment is likely to be substantially greater than the Treasury figure—perhaps as much as £500m for every 100,000 joining the unemployment register, equivalent to £3,500 for each worker.

The Treasury estimates that of the £340m cost resulting from an extra 100,000 unemployed, lost tax revenues account for £205m (60 per cent) and additional social security benefits and administration for £135m (40 per cent).

Last November the Treasury put the cost to the Exchequer of an unemployed married man with two children on average earnings at £5,000 and the cost of an unemployed single man at £5,236 a year.

The lower figure of £3,500 suggested from yesterday's figures reflects the fact that the unemployment total includes unskilled and women workers who may earn less or be entitled to claim less in benefits, and who thus cost the Government less if they lose their jobs.

Another article in *Economic Progress Report* estimates that output in 1980-81 will turn out to be 4 per cent lower than in the previous year, twice the drop expected at the time of the last Budget.

This lost output will have added between £2,000m and £4,000m to public sector borrowing this year. The expected extra fall accounts for about half the total, in line with the Chancellor's £1,500m estimate in his mini-budget on November 24.

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DIRECT COSTS TO EXCHEQUER OF AN INCREASE OF 100,000 REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT (EXCLUDING SCHOOL-LEAVERS) IN 1980-81

	Current receipts	Current expenditure
Income tax	115	115
National insurance contributions	75	75
National insurance surcharge	15	15
Total current receipts	205	205
National insurance benefits (including earnings related supplement)	65	65
Other social security benefits	55	55
Rent and rate rebates	5	5
Administrative costs	10	10
Total current expenditure	135	135
Exchequer cost (at 1980-81 output prices)	340	340

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Sugarbeet factories 'might have to close'

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

A warning that some of the 17 British sugarbeet factories might have to close was given yesterday by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Mr Walker interrupted a meeting of EEC fisheries ministers in Brussels to return to London for a meeting with 12 Conservative and Labour MPs with constituencies in north-west England about the threatened closure of the Tate & Lyle cane refinery in Liverpool.

Mr Walker then had a brief meeting with Sir Gerald Thorley, chairman of the British Sugar Corporation, and Mr John Becker, chief executive.

Mr Walker would not comment directly about the chances of keeping the Liverpool refinery open and of preserving more than 1,000 jobs there. He had discussed with both companies if they will investigate what they can do as far as exports are concerned, he said. "It is not a question of the quotas for sugarbeet, but of the declining consumption of sugar in this country."

He wants Tate & Lyle, which refines all cane entering Britain, and the British Sugar Corporation, which processes all home-grown beet, to consider a joint venture to export refined cane and beet sugar for which there is no market in Britain.

Mr Walker said the programme of expanding domestic sugar production adopted by the Labour Government in the mid-1970s was no longer valid because of falling consumption. He had therefore offered to cur the EEC beet quota for Britain by 200,000 tonnes to 1.15 million tonnes if other countries accepted similar cuts.

His forecast on what sugar consumption would be was "not very rosy," he said. "This is not sugar grapes. It is not a party point."

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Government offers British Steel £1,500m of emergency borrowing

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

New emergency borrowing facilities for the British Steel Corporation, increasing the ceiling of £3,300m by £1,500m, have been introduced by the Government.

The move reflects the continuing cash hemorrhage at BSC, which is losing close on £2m a day, and the need for it to secure further borrowing before the end of the present financial year in six weeks time.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, provided a further dramatic illustration of the parlous state of the Corporation's finances. British Steel is already pressed close against the present ceiling and would have exceeded it within the next three weeks. The new borrowing powers Bill is seen as a prudent interim precautionary measure.

Initially the Bill will provide for the existing ceiling to be lifted by £500m to £3,800m and Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, will have power to lift it still further to £7,000m by order.

Originally the Government had hoped that it would be able to make its long-awaited statement this week on the 'survival plan' for BSC submitted by Sir Keith Joseph, the corporation chairman. The plan will involve the provision of at least £750m from the taxpayer for the coming financial year, as well as writing off a large

amount of the £3,500m of public dividend capitalised last night. "There is a very strong feeling that firm and very watertight guarantees must be given by the Government that extra funds for the BSC must not be used as an operating subsidy. We will seek amendments if necessary. If assurances are not forthcoming."

Replying to questions after his statement on the new borrowing powers yesterday in the Commons, Mr Tebbit sought to allay those fears. "It is our intention that the BSC should not use funds to destroy the British independent sector of the industry," he said.

Ministers recognize that the provision of further substantial funds for British Steel is likely to provide a source of controversy within the EEC. The West German Government yesterday made it clear that, in forthcoming talks in Brussels, it would be seeking to persuade the EEC to invoke existing legal instruments to dismantle the panoply of state subsidies for steel throughout the Community.

Meanwhile, the Corporation continues to push ahead with its sale drive, claiming that export orders from its steel mill operations were running at their highest levels for nearly eight years. Over the next six weeks, more than 180,000 tonnes of strip steel is scheduled to be shipped to Germany and other EEC countries, with other ship-ments destined for the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

There has been growing criticism from private sector steelmakers of the aggressive marketing tactics being deployed by BSC in a desperate attempt to boost sales and plant loading levels through pricecutting and heavy discounting.

The frustration of the private sector was reflected in a petition by a delegation of workers from the Duport company's plant in Wales delivered to 10 Downing Street yesterday, calling for a halt to unfair competition from the corporation.

Among Tory backbenchers, similar fears are being expressed. Mr Michael Givills,

MP, chairman of the party's industry committee said last night. "There is a very strong feeling that firm and very watertight guarantees must be given by the Government that extra funds for the BSC must not be used as an operating subsidy. We will seek amendments if necessary. If assurances are not forthcoming."

Replying to questions after his statement on the new borrowing powers yesterday in the Commons, Mr Tebbit sought to allay those fears. "It is our intention that the BSC should not use funds to destroy the British independent sector of the industry," he said.

Ministers recognize that the provision of further substantial funds for British Steel is likely to provide a source of controversy within the EEC. The West German Government yesterday made it clear that, in forthcoming talks in Brussels, it would be seeking to persuade the EEC to invoke existing legal instruments to dismantle the panoply of state subsidies for steel throughout the Community.

Meanwhile, the Corporation continues to push ahead with its sale drive, claiming that export orders from its steel mill operations were running at their highest levels for nearly eight years. Over the next six weeks, more than 180,000 tonnes of strip steel is scheduled to be shipped to Germany and other EEC countries, with other ship-ments destined for the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

There has been growing criticism from private sector steelmakers of the aggressive marketing tactics being deployed by BSC in a desperate attempt to boost sales and plant loading levels through pricecutting and heavy discounting.

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Harrisons poised for plantations takeover

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Lancashire textile machinery and engineering group, is selling its marine propeller business for an undisclosed sum. This is the latest of a number of disposals to cut the group's overdraft after it was rescued by its bankers last April.

Last November the group sold its profitable marine division for £11.5m to Indian Head, an American company. This together with other smaller sales reduced borrowings by £14m.

Mr Robin Tavenor, chief executive, said: "We do not plan to make any more major disposals or closures."

Besides selling the marine business, Stone-Platt is rationalizing other activities in the marine and mechanical division, which include a number of foundry companies. Mr Tavenor said the group led by RTT have been contending. The 54 per cent not owned by Harrisons is worth about £33m at current prices.

When the McLeod-Sipef offer was made for London Sumatra three years ago it valued the company at 110p a share. The board of London Sumatra put the asset value at 270p a share. City analysts calculate that London Sumatra's assets are now worth between 450p and 55 p a share.

The announcement that the minority shareholders were pulling out also raised questions about the group's future in the specialized area of plantation investment.

It is suggested that RTT, which will realize a big capital gain on the sale, could be interested in Warren Plantations.

Financial Editor, page 21

Stone-Platt sells its propeller business

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Financial Editor, page 21

man of Stone-Platt's marine and mechanical division, is buying the fixed-pitch propeller business.

The prices paid will be related to net asset values at end-1979. Mr Tavenor said the book value of the assets being sold or disposed of was about £6m. However, he said there would probably be a small writedown on the sale. Although the deals have nearly been finalized they are still subject to contract, which is why the price has not been disclosed.

The foundry operations in the marine and mechanical division will mostly be merged with Stone-Platt's electrical division although the reorganization may involve a small closure and some redundancies. The marine and mechanical division had total sales of £41m in 1979 and a loss (pre-interest) of £100,000.

The latest measures will leave Stone-Platt free to concentrate on its traditional textile machinery business and its electrical division.

The group's major problems have been in its textile machinery operations in the United Kingdom. In 1979 the group tumbled from pre-tax profits of £2.5m to losses of £2.9m. In the first half of 1980 it lost £2.5m but forecast a profit in the second half. Yesterday the shares firmed 11p to 25p.

Financial Editor, page 21

Share deal rules tightened

By Michael Frost
Mining Correspondent

New regulations were introduced by the Stock Exchange yesterday in an attempt to control dealings in foreign minerals exploration companies.

The new regulations "invite foreign companies whose shares are dealt under Rule 163 (1) (e) to agree before dealings start on the release of price sensitive information simultaneously in Britain and in changes on which the share is quoted if British investors are disadvantaged." The council reserves the right to ban dealing.

The council says it has been concerned that some companies have issued shares in London without simultaneous issues in their country of incorporation. Rule 163 (1) (e) allows Stock Exchange members to deal in shares which are neither listed nor quoted on the United Securities Market.

But if this is seen as a tightening up, the council is liberalizing the regulation governing British companies' dealings abroad, although unquoted in London.

These companies will be required to provide information to the Stock Exchange as though they were fully listed. But the council warns investors that the same degree of public disclosure is not demanded of unlisted companies.

Capel-Cure acquires specialist brokers

By Philip Robinson
Stockbroker Capel-Cure Myers formed by the merger of four firms in 1974—announced yesterday it is to take on the small private client specialist brokers, Bendon Langner.

The two were introduced by a third party before Christmas after CCM was asked if it would be interested in a merger with Bendon. Once complete, before the financial year of both firms ends in April, the Bendon Langner name will disappear.

Bendon Langner was itself formed out of a stockbrokerage merger in 1971. At that time A. Bendon Co had been in existence 80 years and Levy Langner for 50.

There is still discussion on just how many staff CCM will incorporate. Capel's say that the department still appeared to be working on the basis of the Government's projection for unemployment in the next 12 months of 2.3 million, which had already been exceeded.

Mr John Gorst (Barney, Hordern, London, C), pointed out that the department still appeared to be working on the basis of the Government's projection for unemployment in the next 12 months of 2.3 million, which had already been exceeded.

Community service, page 20

Ulster property group acquires Strongmead in reverse takeover

By James Slater, the financier and latter day writer of children's books, took a further step yesterday towards an eventual return to the quoted company sector.

His private property company, Strongmead, set up with the help of Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland of Lonsdale and Slater Walker collapse, is to be acquired by Laganvale Estate, the Northern Ireland-based property group in which Strongmead has a 14 per cent stake.

The deal, which is in effect a reverse takeover, entails Strongmead placing one million of its 1.46 million Laganvale shares at 30p each with its shareholders. The balance of the shares will go to Strongmead's associates.

After this transaction Strongmead's net assets will be worth £1.4m, of which half will be in cash or near cash and the remainder will be invested in a good residential property.

The plan is that Laganvale will then acquire Strongmead on a net assets basis by April 30, after Strongmead's net worth has been certified by Laganvale's reporting accountants.

Laganvale will be issuing not more than 4.6 million shares to meet the transaction, total consideration of £1.4m which in turn will take Strongmead and its associates with around 40 per cent holding. As this

Slater story opens a new chapter in the City

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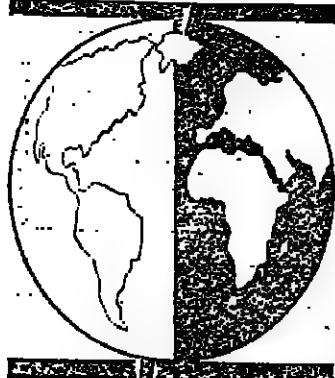
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Iran shuns American bank loans

Iran will produce and export enough oil this year to avoid borrowing on international money markets, Mr Ali Reza Nobari, the Iranian central bank governor, said yesterday.

Mr Nobari, in London for talks with American bankers about financial claims outstanding since the Tehran-Washington agreement that freed the 52 American hostages last month, put no figure on Iran's oil production targets.

Because of Iran's war with Iraq, the country's oil output is thought by Tehran diplomats to be 700,000 barrels a day compared to a possible 2 million barrels should the conflict end.

Mr Nobari said that Iran's oil output would obviate any recourse to world money markets and added: "If we do borrow, it won't be through United States banks."

Foreign deposits recall

China's government has given Chinese companies and organizations until the end of February to bring home unauthorized foreign currency deposits abroad or face confiscation of the funds.

Austrian economy

The Austrian economy is expected to level off this year after a rapid expansion during the previous two years according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). But Austria's inflation and unemployment rates are still likely to remain among the OECD's lowest.

Gold output up

Chinese gold production rose 14.3 per cent to a record level last year, the official New China News Agency reports.

Dutch spending plan

The Dutch Government is planning a sharp reduction in public sector spending growth from 1981 to 1985, because of lower than expected economic growth.

Japanese imports



Herr Otto Lambsdorf (above), West Germany's economic minister, has said he intends to use every opportunity to oppose growing pressure from European trade unions and industry for restrictions on Japanese imports. He said the Japanese challenge "provides a chance for us to make an effort to improve our competitiveness."

\$14.6m bus plant

Hino Motors, one of Japan's largest heavy-duty truck makers, will build a \$14.6m (about £6.2m) bus assembly plant in New York State within a few years, the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* reported. Agreement has also been reached to deliver several hundred buses to New York City by the end of the year.

Belgian pay talks

Belgium's Employer's Federation has agreed to meet union and government representatives for talks on a voluntary wage limitation agreement, in the absence of which a mandatory ban would be imposed by the government.

German turnover slips

West German wholesale trade turnover fell a real 2 per cent in 1980 although the nominal total rose by about 6 per cent to DM630,000m (£127,270m). Retail sales volume was unchanged in December over December, 1979.

Italian railway funds

The Italian state railway is to offer a \$500m (£15.5m) syndicated loan and floating rate note issue on the Euro-dollar market managed by Societe and S. G. Warburg, according to the transport ministry.

Finland oil price rise

Finland will pay about \$38.5 a barrel for Soviet crude oil after a rise of about \$4 was agreed in Moscow. Finland is to import some 7 million tonnes of Soviet crude this year under a bilateral trade agreement.

Malaysian aid cutback

Britain is to reduce its technical assistance to Malaysia from next year. Sir Donald Hawley, the outgoing British High Commissioner, said in Kuala Lumpur. The Government had taken the decision because Malaysia was near to becoming a "developed country".

Enthusiasts on two wheels are driving themselves out of business

Motorcycle boom bypasses dealers

While Britain has been enjoying an upsurge of interest in motorcycling in the past few years, the country's 2,500 motorcycle dealers apparently have shown a remarkable inability to capitalize on the boom. Sales are soaring, but profits have tumbled and there is now a danger that many dealers will be forced out of business.

A new report by ICC Business Ratios, published today concludes that for most dealers the past three years has been "an unending picture of falling profitability, increasing stocks, declining return on capital and generally poor asset utilization."

The trouble, it seems, is that most dealers, like their customers, are enthusiasts rather than "hard-nosed" businessmen. Motorcycle salesmen must stop regarding their activity as a hobby, says the report, "and must take a serious look at the way their costs are managed to survive on water-tight margins by astute financial planning and clever marketing."

Last year was the best for motorcycle sales in Britain since 1959 and there are now an estimated 1.4 million two-wheelers on the roads, an increase of 11 per cent since 1976. According to the report, the leading high street sales companies increased turnover by 22 per cent in 1978 and 17 per cent in 1979, and one achieved

annual sales approaching £2m. But few, says the report, have been able to "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

It adds: "Indeed, if the performance of the country's top motorcycle-outlets is any indication of trading patterns in the future, then over the next year or so a significant number of firms could find they are driving themselves out of business unless they take some swift action now to correct an already well established pattern of financial trends."

In the past two or three years, many companies' profit margins have been halved. Only one, it is said, now has a margin in double figures and about 12 are operating on negative margins. In the three years to October, 1979, the average profitability of the 60 leading firms in the survey fell from 18.8 per cent to 8.5 per cent, while total sales rose by 44 per cent.

The signs of declining profitability were apparent in 1977 and 1978, ICC says, but few companies took corrective action. "It remains to be seen if firms have taken advantage of the upturn in sales to put their houses in order; it would be reasonable to expect, at least on their past performance, that they have not and are prepared to live with margins as low as 1 per cent."

The report lays emphasis on the rapid growth in dealers' stocks and debtors compared to sales. The average stock

turnover figure fell from 4.7 to 4.1 times per year while the average debt collection period nearly doubled from 15 to 28 days.

With interest rates so high these are crucial areas of management control and together they go a long way to explaining the industry's declining performance."

One result has been a drop in the number of sales outlets. Last October there were an estimated 2,402 United Kingdom dealers, many of them one-man concerns or corner shops, compared with about 3,000 in the past. The small operators, says the report, "are probably content to exist with modest living since steps for achieving this were set out in the main Report of the Committee to Review the Functioning of Financial Institutions (Conrad 1977), published last summer, and in our Report on the Financing of Small Firms (Conrad 1978) of March 1979."

The most important priority is to bring England into line with Scotland and Wales, which have their own Scottish and Welsh Development Authorities, as well as the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the Development Board for

Motor Cycle Dealers (2nd Edition) ICC Business Ratios, 81 City Road, London, E80.

Edward Townsend



Mr Walter Goldsmith, left, director general of the Institute of Directors, presents The Times Grand Prix award in London yesterday to Mr Anthony Hill, a director of Unilever, watched by Mr Alan Watson and Mr Robin Morton, of Charles Barker CBC, Unilever's advertising agency which shares in the award. The companies won the Grand Prix for the best advertisements of company results in 1980.

Inmos to launch latest microchip design

By Bill Johnston

Inmos, the microchip company whose majority shareholding is held by the National Enterprise Board (NEB), is to make its debut at the International Solid State Conference, next Wednesday in New York.

The British company, backed by a government investment

of £50m, will unveil details of its latest product to several thousand delegates from dozens of countries involved in microelectronics at the International Solid State Conference.

The new design is called a 64K dynamic RAM, a chip with over 64,000 memory cells for

use in computers. It has the added advantage of having cells which can be made to replace others that become inoperative. The new chip is an important development for Inmos. The company's projections for all its products suggest sales of £150m in 1984, growing to £200m a year later.

New Saudi five-year plan could favour UK exports

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Saudi Arabia's just launched third five-year plan, worth about £100,000m, is because of its emphasis on industrialization of the country, likely to favour British efforts to export compared with earlier plans with a stress on infrastructure construction. Low labour cost countries such as South Korea have mopped up many important construction contracts.

This was one of the key points which emerged from a seminar on Saudi Arabia's new plan organized by the Confederation of British Industry in London yesterday and attended by about 400 leading businessmen.

They heard a warning from Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of Trade, that because the trend in Saudi Arabia was towards local manufacture, any stay in the market British companies would have to be more willing to enter joint manufacturing ventures.

Anybody who saw the country solely as a market for direct exports could eventually lose business to competitors more willing to involve themselves in Saudi Arabia's industrial ambitions, Mr Parkinson said.

The thrust towards joint ventures was underlined by Dr Faisal Al Bashir, Saudi Arabia's deputy minister of planning, who said that British companies would have to be prepared to share technology and managerial and technical skills. There would be more help for the private sector in Saudi Arabia, including the provision of long-term interest-free loans, he said.

A study of the plan by the Committee for Middle East Trade (Comet), showed that imports should continue to grow during the period by a real annual rate of 7 per cent, which though slower than in the previous plan was at a faster rate than had been expected.

What could benefit British exporters was more emphasis on productive industries such as manufacturing and mining and agriculture.

One additional source of stimulus for increasing local ownership of businesses and funding investment in the production sector could be development of a stock exchange, now under consideration by the Saudi Arabian Government.

The Third Saudi Arabian Development Plan, 1980-85: Committee for Middle East Trade, £5.

Society offers homes aid

By Sylvia Morris

The one million members of the Provincial Building Society have somewhere to turn for advice if or when they are made redundant. The society, the ninth largest in the country, yesterday announced a series of measures to help the unemployed.

As part of the package, managers at the 200 branches throughout the country will advise those facing unemployment on what to do about their mortgages.

Solutions include suspending payment for up to one year, or reducing the monthly costs by extending the term of the mortgage or switching to an "option mortgage" if this proves more suitable.

Borrowers will be advised as to whether to pay off their mortgage with any redundancy payment or savings.

"We have to recognize that mortgage repayments, especially for those who have only just bought their homes, may be difficult or even impossible to keep going when a borrower is made redundant," Mr Brian Holmes, chief general manager of the society, said yesterday.

"The main purpose of a building society is to help people buy and to keep their own homes. We recognize that jobs become redundant, not people, so our role does not change." Branch managers also will issue information sheets giving advice on the amount of redundancy pay people can expect, tax problems and how to manage their finances, including

mortgage payments and savings problems.

When it comes to investing a lump sum, building societies have an obvious role, but the society points out that it will not necessarily be the right answer for those who do not pay tax.

Provincial hopes that any goodwill it earns now will help with its future business.

The measures are the result of a survey, commissioned for the Provincial from Gallup.

It shows that people facing redundancy lack advice from all quarters. Companies and trade unions are hesitant to help.

The survey confirmed that very few of those who lose their jobs turn to building societies or banks for advice, although when they do, they generally find the advice useful and act upon it.

Commenting on the scheme, Mr Holmes said: "Half the population has a building society account and one in 11 adults is currently out of work. The implication of these statistics goes well beyond what may or may not be done with golden handshakes." Although Provincial's main concern is to provide advice on the effect of redundancy on domestic financial matters, it is also encouraging workers made redundant to set up their own co-operatives. The society is providing out information on the Co-operative Development Agency, set up by Parliament.

Community service plan for jobless

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday announced a £32m scheme aimed at providing 25,000 temporary community service jobs for the long term unemployed.

Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman, made clear that this was only intended as a start and the commission would be approaching the Government for further funds to expand the scheme.

"These people and unemployed teenagers are the major casualties of rising unemployment. Most are unskilled, most left school at the minimum school-leaving age, few have had any training and most have had a sequence of unskilled jobs over the years," Sir Richard said.

Society should not turn its back on the victims of unemployment, he said, urging that private industry and nationalized industry should come forward to sponsor the new scheme, which replaces the Special Temporary Employment Programme.

He said that, in December last year, there were 390,000 people who had been out of work for more than a year. The number was rising and the commission thought it would reach 500,000 or higher within the next 12 months. People on the scheme would be given work of value to local communities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting small firms Government stake in BL

From Sir Harold Wilson, MP for Hydon (Labour)

Sir, The Confederation of British Industry's proposal for the coordination of the existing agencies which assist the development of small industrial firms, reported in your issue of February 9, is to be welcomed. Steps for achieving this were set out in the main Report of the Committee to Review the Functioning of Financial Institutions (Conrad 1977), published last summer, and in our Report on the Financing of Small Firms (Conrad 1978) of March 1979.

The most important priority is to bring England into line with Scotland and Wales, which have their own Scottish and Welsh Development Authorities, as well as the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the Development Board for

Rural Wales respectively. England has the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira) whose operations are confined to purely rural areas and to country towns with less than 15,000 population.

What my colleagues and I sought to see established would be a "Cosura" to provide for urban areas of England some of the facilities available in Wales and Scotland. This would not need any elaborate supervisory machinery. Cosira works under the aegis of the Development Commission, set up by Lloyd George in the early years of the century. Its urban counterpart could easily be fitted into the commission's activities, at any rate for the first few years.

HAROLD WILSON, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Government stake in BL

From Mr Richard Page, MP for Hertfordshire South West (Conservative) and Mr H. Miller, MP for Bromsgrove and Redditch (Conservative)

Sir, We believe everyone shares the concern that was expressed in the letter published on February 7, over the future of British Leyland and the sheer size of government support. However, while pointing out the concern that was expressed in the letter, we believe the view as set out do indicate a simplistic approach which, if implemented, would ensure the collapse of BL. Setting aside the demoralizing effect to the BL workforce of seeing the un planned piece-meal removal of minor parts of the company there are two main factors to be considered.

First, one of the major strengths of BL is that of its depth and quality of its design network throughout the country. While already struggling to maintain sales throughout the removal of one or more franchise modules into the hands of other manufacturers would obviously with reduce sales cause dealer closures or conversions with a resultant loss of orders on the factory. Secondly, disposal of pre owned profitable parts would merely lower the banks borrowings and apart from a reduction in interest would necessitate a increased subsidy to keep the other parts operating.

Any decision over the future of British Leyland, no matter whether it be to continue, be off or part close down, must lie in a tightly coordinated plan involving the whole plant and not a haphazard disposal which would create more difficulties and cost than it would solve.

RICHARD PAGE, House of Commons.

Training boards

From Mr P. Palmer Jones

Sir, That the Centre for Policy Studies report on industrial training boards is irrefutable, proved by the constructive industry that trained both me and better apprentices before ITBs were conceived, within the £200m plus annual levy or the considerable administrative costs within the firm forced, without consultation into participation.

Unless government gets a our backs on this typical bureaucratic extravaganza, the private industry will never off its economic knees. F. PALMER JONES, F. P. Calne Limited, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AX.

Design of calendars

From Mr R. J. Evershed

Sir, Mr Leaver ("Standard design for calendars", Letters, February 5) will be interested to know that the British Standards Institution lay down a detailed specification for how weeks are to be numbered (BS 4760). This includes the requirement for Monday to be the first day of the commercial week.

So far as layout of dates is concerned, however, there is no standardization, although it is generally found to be easier to read a calendar where the days

of the week read left to right rather than top to bottom.

In the absence of any official regulation on either of these aspects of calendar design, there will no doubt continue to be a number of different layouts, according to the whim of publisher or customer.

Yours faithfully, R. J. EVERSHED, Managing Director, Evershed's.

Alma Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3AS. February 5.

Overseas mail rates

From Professor N. Kurti

Sir, I was disappointed with the somewhat disingenuous reply of the Director of International Postal Affairs (February 6) to the correspondence regretting the increase in postal charges to countries of the European Community when charges on mail in the reverse direction have just been decreased. He says that only (my italics) Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the

Netherlands apply lower postal charges. He should have said that only Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg (responsible probably for less than a quarter of our Economic Community postal traffic) apply the higher rates. You are faithfully, N. KURTI, Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ.

Self-regulation at Lloyd's

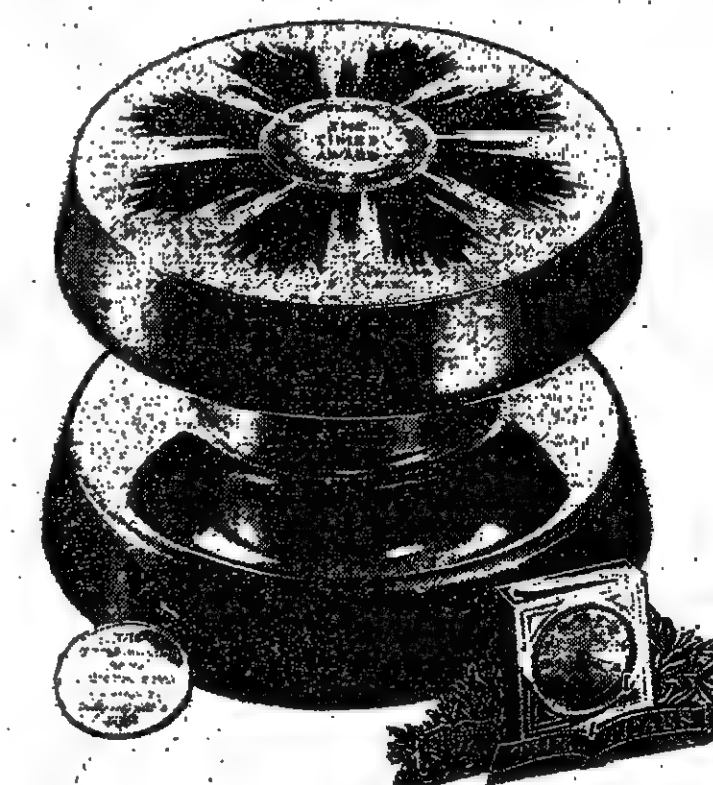
From Sir Graham Page, MP for Crosby (Conservative)

Sir, With reference to the report (February 11) "Compromise talks start on Bill for self-regulation at Lloyd's", I have no arrangement to meet Lady Middleton or any other Members of Lloyd's who are not MPs. The Lloyd's Bill has not been withdrawn.

Neither Lloyd's nor I have any intention of withdrawing it. The Bill has not faced parliamentary opposition during its second reading last month: it

has not yet had a second reading. No specific meeting of Conservative MPs has been arranged for Thursday evening although, of course, I discuss the contents of the Bill from time to time with interested MPs.

I will not weary you with a recitation of further errors in that item by your insurance correspondent who made no inquiries of me before writing it. GRAHAM PAGE, House of Commons.



The Times Awards 1980 Winners.

The winning entries for The Times Awards were those advertisements which, in the opinion of the judges, would leave the reader with the impression that the company would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or in which to invest. The advertisements were judged in terms of good use of typography, design and copy to convey the relevant information.

The task of the independent panel of judges was made particularly exacting by the number, range, and quality of entries from industry, commerce and finance.

The Grand Prix.

The Times is pleased to announce that the winner of the 1980 Grand Prix is: Unilever Ltd. Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd. Their entry was judged to be the advertisement that best conveyed, by way of typography, design and copy, information relevant to shareholders, professional advisers, prospective investors and all concerned in the company's well-being in short, an advertisement that would leave the reader with the impression that the company would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or in which to invest.

Judges' Special Awards.

Overseas Companies: Creditanstalt-Bankverein Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd. Smaller Advertisements: 20 lines or 4 columns or less. Powell Duffryn Ltd. Agency: Streets Financial Ltd. Special Award: The most significant contribution to new imaginative thinking in financial advertising. JFC Ltd. Agency: Doyle Dane Bernbach Ltd.

Category Winners.

Category 1a Annual Results. Colour or mono. Half page or larger, or equivalent. 1st: Lonrho Ltd. Agency: Walter Judd Ltd. 2nd: International Thomson Organisation Ltd. Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd. 3rd: Rockitt & Colman Ltd. Agency: Dewe Rogerson Ltd. Category 1b Annual Results. Colour or mono. Less than half a page or equivalent. 1st: Booker McConnell Ltd. Agency: Valin Pollen Ltd. 2nd: London Trust Company Ltd. Agency: Valin Pollen Ltd. 3rd: S & W Berisford Ltd. Agency: Streets Financial Ltd.

Category 2 Interim Results. Colour or mono. All sizes. 1st: Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd. 2nd: Pearson Longman Ltd. Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd. 3rd: Charterhouse Group Ltd. Agency: Dewe Rogerson Ltd.

Category 3 Preliminary Results. Colour or mono. All sizes. 1st: Sainsbury Ltd. Agency: Streets Financial Ltd. 2nd: C.T. Bowring and Co Ltd. Agency: Walter Judd Ltd. 3rd: British Sugar Corporation Agency: Charles Barker CBCL Ltd.

Ronald Faux

CREDIT SAFETY

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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

SUPER ENIOR HIPPIING ECRETERARY

£6,500 + BONUSES

MGS (Shipbrokers) Ltd., a small but well established international firm of brokers, require an experienced Secretary to join the team at their busy City office in March.

Applicants must have a high standard of secretarial skills, the ability to work for more than one master, confidentiality, a sound telephone manner, organizational capabilities, personality and a cool head under pressure.

The position is demanding but also rewarding in terms of salary, bonuses, holiday and job satisfaction.

Applications, in writing only, please, together with full past career details, to: R. J. Jackson, MGS (Shipbrokers) Ltd., 30 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 4BT.

Cecil Gee

The Directors of purchasing of Cecil Gee International mens fashion group require a personal assistant.

This very interesting job involves contact with companies both at home and abroad and use of the latest computer equipment.

Excellent shorthand and typing and experience of telex essential.

Superb air-conditioned office in the West End of London. Friendly, young, head office team, top salary and conditions.

Please write for an appointment enclosing C.V. to Mr Rowland Gee, Director

Cecil Gee International,

39-45 Shaftesbury Avenue,

London W1V 8AX

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO GENERAL SECRETARY

Salary £8,000 c. Age 30-35

The General Manager of leading employment consultants based in London requires a Personal Assistant for a position offering job interest and development.

Administration, Control of staff, entertaining clients and dealing with advertising and public relations etc. Applicants should have a personal background with first class interviewing and administrative skills together with the ability to communicate with people at all levels.

A bright, outgoing personality is essential. Applicants will be asked to attend an interview to discuss a role for which most applicants will be paid after one year's satisfactory service. Please contact Box 2500 P, The Times.

In quiet location adjacent to Chancery Lane Underground Station, London

P.A./SECRETARY

required by the Secretary of an organisation employing 30 people. Shorthand essential but accuracy more important than speed. Congenial environment; happy working atmosphere. No figure work. Mature outlook and sense of humour essential. Preferred age 30+. Salary not less than £6,000. Non-contributory pension. Season ticket loan scheme.

Ring Mr. Mackie on 01-242 8329 for an application form.

SENIOR LEGAL SECRETARY

Young partner in firm of Chancery Lane solicitors requires competent and confident secretary to assist him in his commercial work and also to look after his day management of the office and personnel.

Relevant experience desirable. Audio essential/short hand useful. This senior position is demanding but offers an excellent remuneration package and 4 weeks holiday.

For further details please call Linda Ridgway, 01-408 0945.

SECRETARIAL SUPERVISOR

25,500+ early review

This is a new position in an expanding Management Consultancy in EC2, ideally you will have good shorthand and administrative skills, together with confidence and personality to delegate and be responsible for a team of 8 secretaries. For further information telephones Miss Morris on

01-522 8524

D.T. SELECTION REC. CO.

PART TIME CAREERS

P.A./SECRETARY

For chairman, industrialist, etc.

Excellent position for part secretary with some shorthand and typing skills. Office in quiet location, close to tube. Salary short days work. £4,500 p.a.

Ring Key Signs on Recruitment Consultants

01-522 8524

D.T. SELECTION REC. CO.

FLUENT IN PORTUGUESE NEG.

Join our client, an Int. Professional Organisation, as Senior Secretary. This is a busy and interesting position for a career-minded person. Sec. skills of 70/100 needed.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

18 Grosvenor Street London W1

Telephone 01-499 2921

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Phone 01-729 7633

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ROYAL LANCASTER HOTEL

Deputy General Manager requires

SECRETARY/P.A.

The Four Star Royal Lancaster Hotel (part of the Rank Organisation) can offer £5,600 p.a. for this very interesting position in a busy office. A good working knowledge of French and Italian would be very useful and of course any other languages spoken would be used. Good s/h and typing skills are essential.

We offer s/h and typing benefits and free meals on duty. Please send a c.v. in the first instance to The Personnel Manager, Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London, W.2.

No agencies, please.

SECRETARY TO COMPANY

COMMERCIAL PARTNER

We are looking for a shorthand audio Secretary aged 22-37 to work for a Partner in a firm of City Solicitors.

Company law experience essential and we will accept rusty shorthand. Salary £6,000 p.a., season ticket loan, Christmas bonus, 4 weeks' holiday. Smart, well-presented candidates please ring 01-243 5451 and speak to Mr. Perry or Mrs. Gabriel.

No agencies, please.

AMERICAN COMPANY

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

We need a bright, presentable P.A. with good office organizational ability and good basic skills, with a sincere ambition for advancement in a very exciting internationally reputed American company in Knightsbridge. Second language an asset, but not essential. 32-39 years.

You get: First year compensation £8,400+, high possible bonus and commission. Friendly atmosphere and intelligent conversation except for Latin.

01-235 2261

PA/Exec. Secretary

£6,000

An outstanding and efficient Executive Secretary is required by a prestigious oil institution.

In addition to general secretarial skills, applicants should have a keen interest in world affairs and good writing/reporting capability.

The right candidate has a good opportunity for personal development and future prospects. Very pleasant working conditions in elegant Park Lane offices.

Please ring Mrs. Evans on 01-429 8008 or send C.V. particulars to: General Petroleum and Mineral Services, 128 Park Lane, London W1, for the attention of Mrs. C. Evans.

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PA/SECRETARY

to MD of Personnel & Management Consultancy

£6,800

Join a small, successful and expanding Consultancy, specialising in International Executive Search in various W.I. offices.

This busy job includes varied secretarial work, organising P.R. client lunches and personal assistant work on individual assignments. If you are 25-45, with intelligence, good experience, secretarial training, fast accurate typing (incl. on IBM Executive) and organisational ability, please ring Shirley - 385 2851.

No agencies, please.

GERMAN & FRENCH

£7,000

Successful American company currently expanding its European office in London. The company is seeking a bilingual P.A. to assist the Managing Director. The ideal candidate will be a woman, 25-45, with a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. She must be fluent in both German and French, with a good knowledge of English. She should also have a good knowledge of the company's products and services. The salary is £7,000 per annum, plus benefits. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, German & French, 123 Park Lane, London W1, for the attention of Mrs. C. Evans.

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SECRETARY

Competent and efficient shorthand typist, 25-35, for property partners in Park Lane.

Salary c. £5,500-£6,000 a.e. + benefits. 4 weeks' holiday.

Reference SFW/BJN

